

2000

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission 2000 Annual Report

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Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

2000 Annual Report



Nebraska Game & Parks Commission
P.O. Box 38378 2200 N. 33rd Street Lincoln, NE 68583







Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

2200 N. 33rd St. / P.O. Box 30370 / Lincoln, NE 68503-0370

Phone: 402-471-0641 / Fax: 402-471-5528 / www.ngpc.state.ne.us/

Governor Mike Johanns
State Capitol
PO Box 94848
Lincoln, NE 68509-4848

Dear Governor Johanns:

The year 2000 was a fruitful one for the Commission, and we are pleased to present this Annual Report reflecting the high points of our activities. The report does a good job of relating the focus of each work unit, but a basic overview of the year is helpful in providing a more complete and concise picture.

Several land additions will benefit Nebraskans and their wildlife for years to come. The 1,900-acre Jacobsen Tract near Chadron with 3 miles of Bordeaux Creek and a prime wintering area for elk was acquired with the help of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. A 582-acre addition to Ponca State Park will provide visitors more access to the Missouri River – something that will be increasingly popular as the anniversary of the Lewis and Clark Expedition nears. The Nebraska Environmental Trust, Department of Roads and Ducks Unlimited partnered with the Commission to purchase a 250-acre addition to Indian Cave State Park. The 218-acre Fred Thomas Wildlife Management Area on the Niobrara River north of Bassett, the Myrtle Hall Wildlife Management Area west of Taylor, and 6 acres at the entrance of Chadron State Park were all acquired by the Nebraska Game and Parks Foundation and passed on to the Commission. The CRP-MAP Program increased from 122,000 acres in 1999 to over 150,000 acres in 2000 to the delight of hunters and participating landowners.

For its cooperative efforts, the Commission received national recognition from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and National Wild Turkey Federation. Partnerships between the agency, these organizations and others, such as Ducks Unlimited and Pheasants Forever, allow all involved to do more for wildlife than any could do alone.

Online permitting development continued with unlimited turkey permits for archery seasons and shotgun season in the Northwest Unit, following a year of successful archery and muzzleloader deer permitting online. Work progressed to move all turkey, deer and antelope permitting to an internet-based system in 2001.

Work continued across the state on the Aquatic Habitat Program. Major projects included completion of renovations at Wagon Train and Olive Creek lakes. The Urban Fisheries Program completed its first full year of undertakings aimed at improving fishing in and near cities.

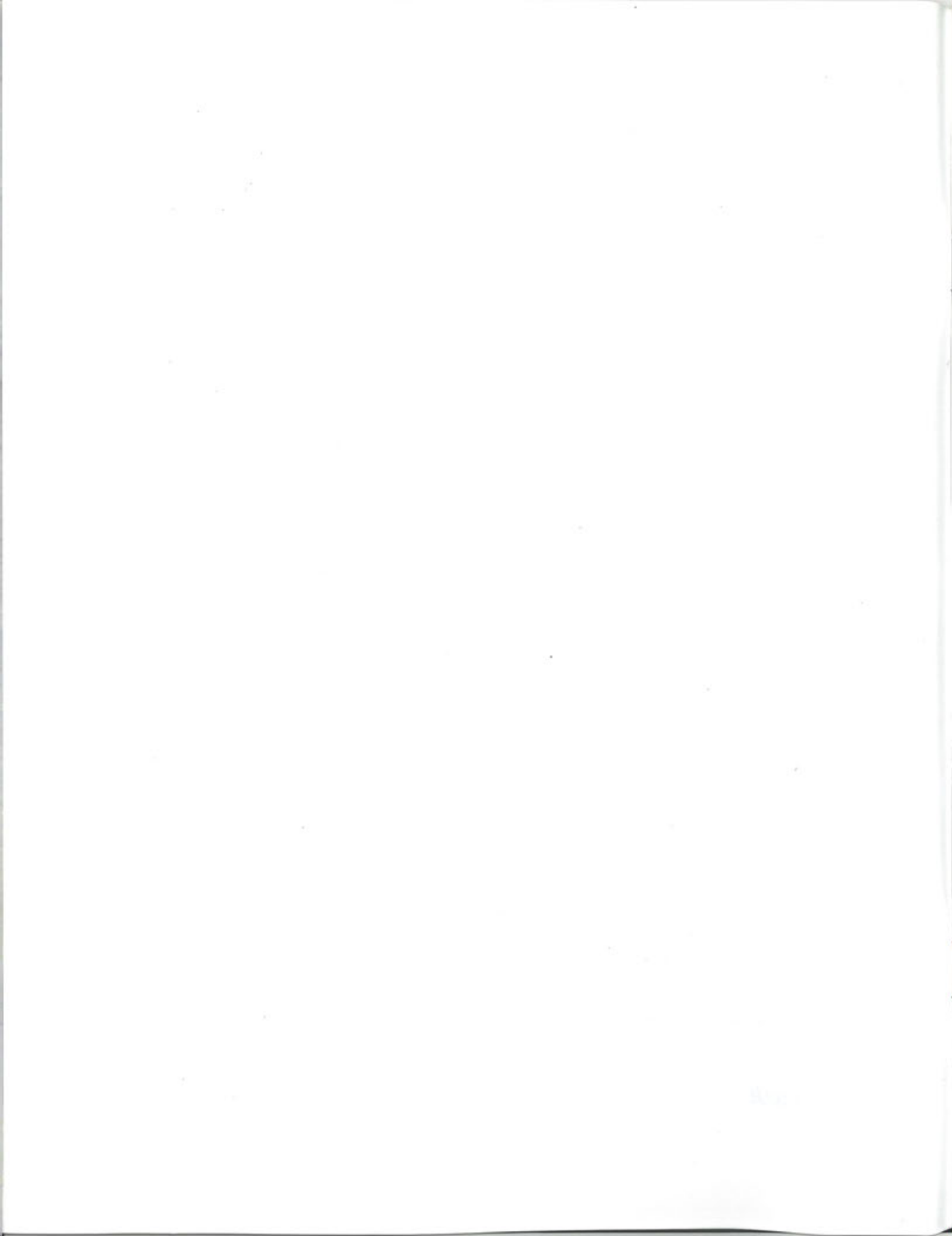
Nebraska youths age 14 and 15 for the first time were required to pass a Boater Education class before they could operate a personal watercraft. An early teal season and special youth pheasant and youth waterfowl seasons gave additional field opportunities to thousands youngsters.

The list of threatened and endangered species added seven plants reptiles, fish and insect species, but four other species were either downlisted from endangered to threatened or removed from the list entirely. A cattle drive to move Texas longhorns from the Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge to Fort Robinson State Park drew national attention to the state in November.

These accomplishments were made in the face of increasing threats to land and wildlife resources. We are pleased to share our progress and this annual report with you.

Sincerely,

Rex Amack
Director



Offices

Headquarters & District V

2200 N. 33rd St./PO Box 30370
Lincoln, NE 68503-0370
402-471-0641 / fax 402-471-5528

Metro Office

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Omaha, NE 68108-2020
402-595-2144 / fax 402-595-2569

District I

299 Husker Rd. / P.O. Box 725
Alliance, NE 69301-0725
308-763-2940 / fax 308-763-2943

District II

524 Panzer St. / P.O. Box 508
Bassett, NE 68714-0934
402-684-2921 / fax 402-684-2816

District III

2201 N. 13th St.
Norfolk, NE 68701-2267
402-370-3374 / fax 402-370-3256

District IV

301 E. State Farm Rd.
North Platte, NE 69101-0430
308-535-8025 / fax 308-535-8028

District VI

1617 First Ave.
Kearney, NE 68847-6057
308-865-5310 / fax 308-865-5309

Commissioners

District 1

Thomas "Tip" O'Neill Jr., Lincoln
1/15/1996-1/15/2001

District 2

George W. Egermayer, Jr., Omaha
1/16/1997-1/15/2002

District 3

John P. Miller, Blair
1/28/1998-1/15/2003

District 4

Randall K. Stinnette, Inland
10/6/99-9/7/04

District 5

Marvin Westcott, Holdrege
1/15/2000 -9/7/04

District 6

Rob Coupland, Valentine
9/7/1997-9/7/2002

District 7

Connie Lapaseotes, Bridgeport
1/15/99-1/15/04

Administration

Rex Amack, Director
Assistant Directors:
Noelyn Isom
Roger Kuhn
Kirk Nelson

PURPOSE

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission is charged with managing and controlling the state's wildlife, parks and outdoor recreational resources in the best long-term interest of the people.

To accomplish that purpose, the Commission strives to plan and implement its policies and programs efficiently and objectively; maintain a rich and diverse environment in Nebraska's lands and waters; provide outdoor recreation opportunities; manage wildlife resources for the maximum benefit of the people, and strive to help Nebraskans appreciate their roles in the natural world.

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This publication condenses individual division annual reports. A complete version of any division report may be obtained by contacting that division at Nebraska the Game and Parks Commission, 2200 N. 33rd St., P.O. Box 30370, Lincoln, NE 68503-0370.

VISIT US ON THE INTERNET

www.ngpc.state.ne.us/

Printed on recycled paper with soy ink.

ADMINISTRATION

This division provides support to all divisions through personnel, internal audit, in-service training, word processing, headquarters maintenance, drug and alcohol reports, telephone switchboard and district staff assistants.

Liaison with the Nebraska Legislature is a major duty, as is providing assistance to the Director's Office and settling claims against the Commission. There were 18 claims in 2000.

LEGISLATION

The 2000 legislative session was one of playing defense. The Commission was able to stave off several pieces of legislation that would have been detrimental. Bills that failed to pass included – elimination of fee for landowner deer permits; establishing premium deer and wild turkey permits; authorizing disabled hunters and fishers to drive on NGPC paths and trails; remove raccoons from fur-bearing list; weaken the Non-game and Endangered Species Conservation Act; reduce price of park entry permits for seniors; require eradication of white perch; change makeup and Commissioner districts, and various bills to take funds from the Environmental Trust.

Three legislative resolutions passed allow NGPC to assume possession of three tracts of land – LR295 for a small

parcel of land at the entrance of Chadron State Park; LR296 a small parcel of land in Nebraska City near Arbor Lodge that contained a storage building, and LR300 to accept the Fred Thomas Wildlife Management Area in Rock County.

PERSONNEL

Personnel includes administration of payroll, retirement, workers compensation, insurance, performance planning, personnel records and preparation of the personal services portion of the budget.

The Labor Contract between the State of Nebraska and Nebraska Association of Public Employees, Local 61 American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees represents approximately 231 agency employees. The Labor Contract between the State of Nebraska and the State Law Enforcement Bargaining Council (represents approximately 47 agency employees. Personnel acts as liaison to the Employee Relations and State Personnel divisions of the Department of Administrative Services.

The agency hired 52 permanent employees in 2000, and 43 employees were promoted/reclassified. Total turnover for 2000 was 8.9% (41 employees).

Numerous letters on employment and career information were received and answered, as were various surveys regarding salary, benefits and personnel turnover.

The Workers Compensation assessment for FY 2000 totaled \$377,088.55.

PAYROLLS

Total of all wages: \$19,799,377.71

Permanent Employees

Gross wages paid – \$15,007,737.78

Monthly average of employees – 459

Temporary

Gross wages paid – \$4,791,639.93

Average of employees per payroll – 512

Largest payroll: 946 / Smallest: 174

IN-SERVICE TRAINING

Seven employees took advantage of advanced college courses, taking classes at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Peru State College and Southeast Community College. The agency pays 50% of approved courses.

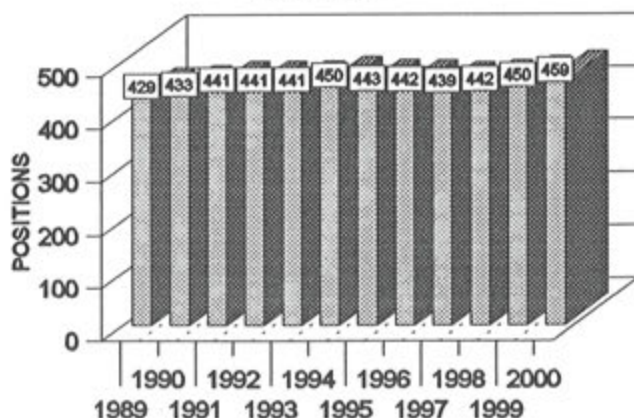
To improve performance and prepare employees for higher responsibility, in-service training is designed to meet specialized needs of staff members who enroll in various of short courses, seminars and workshops. Broad-based training needs are met through in-house workshops for employee groups.

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

Commission employees were involved in 26 motor vehicle accidents, up 2 from 1999 (+8.3%) but not yet approaching the high of 30 accidents recorded in 1996.

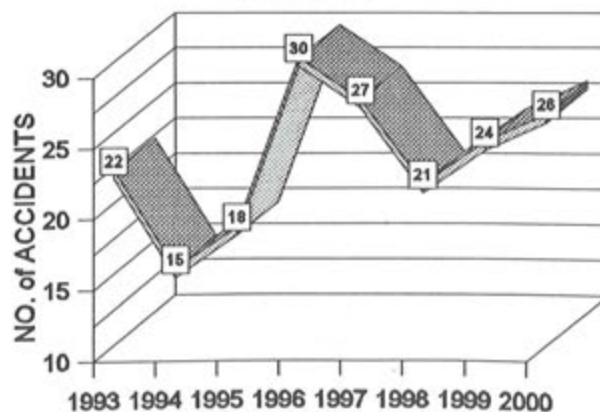
PERMANENT EMPLOYEES

1989-2000



MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

1993-2000



BUDGET & FISCAL

This division has four sections, whose duties include:

1. **Permits Section** issues big-game permits; consigns hunting, fishing, park permits and stamps to agents; issues boating certificates to county treasurers; receives, receipts, deposits and accounts for all monies collected.
2. **Accounts Payable and Cost Accounting Section** processes payments of operating expenses, employee expense documents; conducts audits; prepares monthly reports for Commission review; prepares all tax forms required by the Department of Revenue; distributes costs to appropriate areas for internal cost accounting; and maintains financial records for federal grants.
3. **Purchasing and Inventory Section** procures or coordinates procurement of materials, supplies, equipment and services and maintains an inventory system for agency-owned equipment.
4. **Budget Section** prepares the budget, monitors financial resources, assesses fiscal impact of proposed legislation, insures expenditures are in accord with the budget and applicable rules and regulations, and maintains financial records of capital projects.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

January 1, 2000, General Fund Appropriation and Cash on Hand:

Cowboy Trail Fund (2328)		142,841.37
Environmental Trust Fund (2329)		15,268,211.44
State Game Fund (2332)		
Includes Lifetime Hunt	1,516,136.75	
Includes Lifetime Fish	1,105,486.75	
Other	11,303,092.70	13,924,716.20
State Park Cash Revolving Fund (2333)		6,281,209.79
Nebraska Habitat Fund (2334)		4,626,061.05
Non-game & Endangered Species Fund (2335)		372,735.34
Nebraska Snowmobile Trail Cash Fund (2337)		125,699.96
Nebraska Outdoor Recreation Development Cash Fund (2338)		3,207,632.61
Trail Development Assistance Fund (2339)		71,350.56
Nebraska Aquatic Habitat Fund (2341)		2,713,867.06
Federal Fund (4332)		
Bureau of Reclamation (8972)		427,436.93
National Recreation Assistance Trails Fund (4333)		0.00
Capital Construction Fund (3300)		500,000.00
General Fund (1000)	5,509,434.55	
Less Amount Lapsed	1,587.89	5,507,846.66
Total General Fund Appropriation & Cash on hand January 1, 2000		\$ 53,169,608.97

General Fund Appropriations & Cash Received during 2000

Cowboy Trail Fund (2328)		16,559.29
Environmental Trust Fund (2329)		9,353,501.99
State Game Fund (2332)		
Includes Lifetime Hunt	220,068.50	
Includes Lifetime Fish	167,387.50	
Other	16,420,529.15	16,807,985.15
State Park Cash Revolving Fund (2333)		13,753,489.17
Nebraska Habitat Fund (2334)		3,692,279.76
Non-game & Endangered Species Fund (2335)		121,732.61
Game Law Investigation Fund (2336)		5,101.87
Nebraska Snowmobile Trail Cash Fund (2337)		16,444.56
Nebraska Outdoor Recreation Development Cash Fund (2338)		1,540,905.01
Trail Development Assistance Fund (2339)		209,545.79
Nebraska Aquatic Habitat Fund (2341)		3,208,767.56
Niobrara Council Cash Fund (2342)		90,706.91
Environmental Endowment Fund (2343)		100.00
Federal Fund (4332)		
Bureau of Reclamation (8972)		1,102,925.43
National Recreation Assistance Trails Fund (4333)		343,417.39
Niobrara Council Federal Fund (4334)		67,000.00
General Fund (1000)		9,878,307.00
Total General Fund Appropriations & Cash Received during 2000		\$ 60,208,769.49

Expenditures by Fund Type during 2000

Cowboy Trail Fund (2328)	857.30
Environmental Trust Fund (2329)	11,781,246.06
State Game Fund (2332)	16,003,017.45
State Park Cash Revolving Fund (2333)	13,385,430.25
Nebraska Habitat Fund (2334)	3,829,745.53
Non-game & Endangered Species Fund (2335)	143,924.78
Nebraska Snowmobile Trail Cash Fund (2337)	200.00
Nebraska Outdoor Recreation Development Cash Fund (2338)	798,755.06
Trail Development Assistance Fund (2339)	85,403.78
Nebraska Aquatic Habitat Fund (2341)	2,296,706.83
Niobrara Council Fund (2342)	28,416.67
Federal Fund (4332)	
Bureau of Reclamation (8972)	817,763.86
National Recreation Assistance Trails Fund (4333)	316,446.05
Niobrara Council Federal Fund (4334)	51,681.36
Capital Construction Fund (3300)	7,194.86
General Fund (1000)	9,362,535.92
Total Expenditures during 2000	58,909,325.76

End of the Year Fund Balances for 2000:

Cowboy Trail Fund (2328)	158,543.36
Environmental Trust Fund (2329)	12,840,467.37
State Game Fund (2332)	
Includes Lifetime Hunt	1,736,205.25
Includes Lifetime Fish	1,272,874.25
Other	11,720,604.40
State Park Cash Revolving Fund (2333)	14,729,683.90
Nebraska Habitat Fund (2334)	6,649,268.71
Non-game & Endangered Species Fund (2335)	4,488,595.28
Game Law Investigation Fund (2336)	350,543.17
Nebraska Snowmobile Trail Cash Fund (2337)	5,101.87
Nebraska Outdoor Recreation Development Cash Fund (2338)	141,944.52
Trail Development Assistance Fund (2339)	3,949,782.56
Nebraska Aquatic Habitat Fund (2341)	195,492.57
Niobrara Council Fund (2342)	3,625,927.79
Environmental Endowment Fund (2343)	62,290.24
Federal Fund (4332)	100.00
Bureau of Reclamation (8972)	712,598.50
National Recreation Assistance Trails Fund (4333)	26,971.34
Niobrara Council Federal Fund (4334)	15,318.64
Capital Construction Fund (3300)	492,805.14
General Fund (1000)	6,023,617.74
Total General Fund Appropriation & Cash Balance Remaining on December 31, 2000	\$ 54,469,052.70

2000 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

Area of Expenditure	2332 Game Cash	2333 Park Cash	2334 Habitat Cash	2338 NORDA Cash	2339 Trail Devel. Cash	2341 NE Aquatic Habitat	3300 General Fund	4332 Federal Funds	4333 Rec. Trail Funds	Total
LAND ACQUISITION										
Acq of Habitat Lands	3,224.61		344,380.15							347,604.76
IMPROVEMENTS & RENOVATIONS										
Chadron				8,450.34						8,450.34
ET Mahoney				4,467.80						4,467.80
Fort Robinson		64,232.39		83,795.40			7,194.86			155,222.65
Indian Cave				2,180.16						2,180.16
Platte River				3,362.85						3,362.85
Ponca		27,320.40		24,046.25						51,366.65
Smith Falls		4,339.83								4,339.83
Arbor Lodge		2,000.00		2,418.40						4,418.40
Buffalo Bill Ranch				8,458.45						8,458.45
Fort Hartsuff				11,986.90						11,986.90
Fort Kearny SHP				2,248.56						2,248.56
Park Areas - General				73,193.68						73,193.68
Bluestem	2,440.42									2,440.42
Branched Oak	108,957.85	160,000.00		95,126.84				177,470.67		541,555.36
Buffalo Bill				7,603.15						7,603.15
Calamus	34,433.61	10,764.79		2,516.15				3,522.63		51,237.18
Conestoga	4,142.65			15,680.83						19,823.48
Enders	6,299.15	2,099.71								8,398.86
Johnson Lake				3,886.20						3,886.20
Lewis & Clark		5,423.51		87,247.15						92,670.66
Louisville				18,246.57						18,246.57
Lake Minatare				4,480.00						4,480.00
Lake McConaughy	6,456.47	289,242.26		271,548.41						567,247.14
Lake Ogallala						750.00				750.00
Long Pine		560.00								560.00
Medicine Creek	118,779.89	14,973.57		3,490.00						137,243.46
Memphis		8,661.69				1,714.61				10,376.30
Merritt				961.30						961.30
Mormon Island				7,550.00						7,550.00
Olive Creek	36,089.90					1,090,294.11				1,126,384.01
Pibel Lake	7,003.50	7,003.50				68,068.55				82,075.55
Red Willow	3,198.20	1,066.07								4,264.27
Riverview Marina	8,400.00	2,800.00		675.70						11,875.70
Sandy Channel		12,113.40								12,113.40
Schramm Park				794.89						794.89
Sherman	10,250.00									10,250.00
Stagecoach				30,389.83						30,389.83
Summit	18,028.52	6,009.49				36,057.05				60,095.06
Swanson	3,822.57	1,274.16		1,153.47						6,250.20
Two Rivers						4,386.37				4,386.37
Victoria Springs				2,093.59						2,093.59
Wagon Train	196,342.92	65,447.64		20,702.19		943,282.29				1,225,775.04
Walgren Lake		25,000.00								25,000.00
Wildcat Hills		215.23								215.23
Willow Creek						50,110.35				50,110.35
Wildlife Areas - General	3,395.00									3,395.00
Ballards Marsh	826.41									826.41
Bassway Strip	9,760.34									9,760.34
Big Alkali	2,572.15									2,572.15
Blue Hole	5,061.67									5,061.67

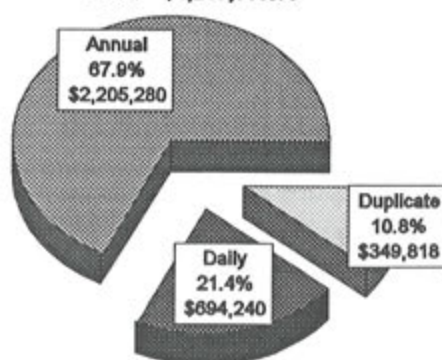
Area of Expenditure	2332 Game Cash	2333 Park Cash	2334 Habitat Cash	2338 NORDA Cash	2339 Trail Devel. Cash	2341 NE Aquatic Habitat	3300 General Fund	4332 Federal Funds	4333 Rec. Trail Funds	Total
Bluewing	12,402.00									12,402.00
Bordeaux	86,000.00		344,000.00							430,000.00
Bufflehead	8,886.45									8,886.45
Cedar Canyon	4,752.00									4,752.00
Clear Creek	15,012.00									15,012.00
Coot Shallows	8,798.24									8,798.24
Cozad	14,092.67									14,092.67
Cottonwood-Steverson	2,572.14									2,572.14
DeFair Lake	54,920.47									54,920.47
Dogwood	8,891.62									8,891.62
East Gothenburg	9,142.49									9,142.49
Flatsedge			20,983.50							20,983.50
Goose Lake	2,572.15									2,572.15
Grove Lake	3,598.80									3,598.80
Grove Trout	5,323.62									5,323.62
Indian Creek	1,188.00									1,188.00
Jack Sinn Memorial	17,260.41									17,260.41
Kea West	15,705.56									15,705.56
Kirkpatrick Basin North	496.00									496.00
Kissinger Basin	15,266.70									15,266.70
Long Pine	876.41									876.41
Lores Branch	549.94									549.94
Myrtle Hall			1,271.50							1,271.50
North Lake Basin	3,168.00									3,168.00
North Sandhills	2,035.60									2,035.60
Oak Valley	700.00									700.00
Osage	38,670.00									38,670.00
Parshall Bridge	826.41									826.41
Sacramento-Wilcox	7,199.84									7,199.84
Smith Lake						8,909.97				8,909.97
South Pine	2,572.16									2,572.16
Swan Creek	4,069.60									4,069.60
Thomas Creek	1,602.82									1,602.82
Verdel Boat Access	24,850.00									24,850.00
Whitefront			137,486.25							137,486.25
Wilkinson	26,628.00									26,628.00
Yankee Hill	1,626.94									1,626.94
Central Office	114,470.53	28,642.04								143,112.57
District I	33,371.04									33,371.04
District IV	120,693.50									120,693.50
District VI	7,087.72									7,087.72
Aquarium	4,870.13									4,870.13
Crystal Cove Fishing Pier	38,939.00									38,939.00
Lake Aeration Systems	9,348.30									9,348.30
Shoreline Protection	3,451.20									3,451.20
Urban Fisheries	26,000.00									26,000.00
Valentine Nat'l Wildlife Refuge	27,668.23									27,668.23
Trail Assistance					81,417.00				25,041.05	106,458.05
Cowboy Trail					3,986.78				291,405.00	295,391.78
Political Sub-division								19,472.86		19,472.86
ADA Improvements								74,438.91		74,438.91
TOTAL	1,377,642.52	739,189.68	848,121.40	798,755.06	85,403.78	2,203,573.30	7,194.86	274,905.07	316,446.05	6,651,231.72

2000 REVENUE

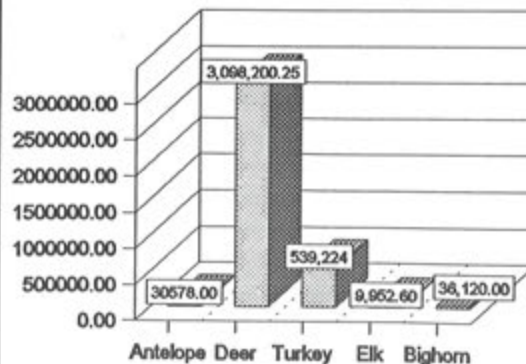
Cowboy Trail Fund					
Interest Earned on Investments	9,249.02				
Trail Fees	5,370.14				
Land Leases/Crop Income/Easements	1,380.00				
Cash Gifts	27.12				
Incidentals	533.01				
Total Cowboy Trail Fund	\$ 16,559.29				
Environmental Trust Fund					
Transferred Income	8,530,453.00				
Interest	815,674.10				
State and Local Reimbursements	90.00				
Incidentals	7,284.89				
Total Environmental Trust Fund	9,353,501.99				
State Game Fund Income					
Hunting Activities (Lifetime Hunt -- 220,068.50)	6,455,105.64				
Fishing Activities (Lifetime Fish -- 167,387.50)	3,118,130.15				
Big Horn Sheep Application Fee	35,560.00				
Boating Registrations	656,133.58				
Entrance Admissions	14,591.90				
Federal Reimbursements	4,649,231.51				
State and Local Reimbursements	3,443.44				
NEBRASKAland Magazine					
Subscriptions	496,007.32				
Advertising	23,135.11				
Calendars, books, slides, etc.	519,142.43				
Interest Earned on Investments	118,764.21				
Land Leases/Crop Income	889,337.98				
Cash Gifts	140,529.87				
Liquidated and Property Damage	21,985.80				
Sale of Surplus Property	93,425.97				
Incidentals	84,558.01				
Total State Game Fund	16,807,985.16				
State Park Cash Revolving Fund Income					
Park Entry Permits	3,261,301.25				
Resale Income	983,559.38				
Food Service	1,484,560.51				
Catering	442,243.46				
Camping	2,040,274.32				
Lodging and Facilities	3,259,749.15				
Marina Lease	65,550.53				
Concessions	80,053.30				
Swimming Pool Admissions	235,116.17				
Trail Rides	292,334.60				
Boats/Golf Recreation Equipment	309,452.54				
Land Lease	90,185.42				
Vending Machines	91,814.90				
Admissions	275,881.16				
Federal Reimbursements	17,626.33				
Grants	159,779.92				
Interest Earned on Investments	409,762.65				
Cash Gifts	43,442.73				
Liquidated and Property Damage	1,840.35				
Sale of Surplus Property	87,483.05				
Liability Accounts and Adjustments of Vendors	50,002.28				
Incidentals	71,475.17				
Total State Park Cash Revolving Fund	13,763,489.17				
Nebraska Habitat Fund Income					
Habitat Stamps	1,597,901.00				
Waterfowl Stamp	210.00				
Federal Reimbursements	1,438,948.37				
Grants	210,544.21				
Interest Earned on Investments	273,243.48				
Crop and Pasture Income	71,498.89				
Cash Gifts	61,522.90				
Sale of Surplus Property	12,083.96				
Incidentals	26,326.95				
Total Nebraska Habitat Fund	3,692,279.76				
Non-Game & Endangered Species Conservation Fund Income					
Federal Reimbursements	2,154.28				
Grants	1,275.00				
Interest Earned on Investments	22,214.54				
Non-Game Donations	82,115.29				
Cash Gifts	870.00				
Sale of Surplus Property	3,689.70				
Incidentals	9,413.80				
Total Non-Game & Endangered Species Fund	121,732.61				
Game Law Investigation Cash Fund Income					
Interest Earned on Investments	101.87				
Transferred Income	5,000.00				
Total Game Law Investigation Cash Fund	5,101.87				
Nebraska Snowmobile Trail Cash Fund Income					
75% of registration fee, less issuing fee	7,999.10				
Interest Earned on Investments	8,445.46				
Total Nebraska Snowmobile Trail Cash Fund	16,444.56				
Nebraska Outdoor Recreation Development Cash Fund					
Portion of Nebraska Tobacco Products Tax	1,321,315.77				
Interest Earned on Investments	218,773.27				
Cash Gifts	800.00				
Sale of Surplus Property	15.97				
Total Nebr. Outdoor Rec. Development Cash Fund	1,540,905.01				
Trail Development Assistance Fund Income					
Interest Earned on Investments	9,545.79				
Transferred Income	200,000.00				
Total Trail Development Assistance Fund	209,545.79				
Aquatic Habitat Fund					
Aquatic Stamp	1,059,005.00				
Federal Reimbursements	684,772.61				
Grants	1,293,977.80				
Interest Earned on Investments	188,832.68				
Cash Gifts	1,535.47				
Incidentals	644.00				
Total Aquatic Habitat Fund	3,208,767.56				
Niobrara Council Fund Income					
Interest Earned on Investments	1,746.98				
Cash Gifts	88,959.93				
Total Niobrara Council Fund	90,706.91				
Environmental Endowment Fund Income					
Cash Gifts	100.00				
Total Environmental Endowment Fund	100.00				
Federal Funds					
Bureau of Reclamation, etc.	1,102,925.43				
National Recreation Trails Fund, etc.	343,417.39				
Niobrara Council Fund, etc.	67,000.00				
Total Federal Funds without reimbursements	1,513,342.82				
Total Cash & Federal Income Received during 2000	\$ 50,330,462.49				

2000 Park Permit Income

Total = \$3,249,338.00



2000 Big Game Income



2000 EXPENDITURES

OPERATIONAL COSTS

Program 162 - Environmental Trust		\$ 11,781,246.06
Program 330 - Habitat Development		
State Game Fund	37,674.03	
Nebraska Habitat Fund	<u>2,874,542.32</u>	2,912,216.35
Program 336 - Wildlife Conservation		
Sub-Program 01 - Enforcement		
General Fund	494,132.15	
State Game Fund	2,892,599.45	
State Park Cash Revolving	<u>539,561.97</u>	3,926,293.57
Sub-Program 02 - Information & Education		
State Game Fund	1,876,711.36	
State Park Cash Revolving	<u>455,698.20</u>	2,332,409.56
Sub-Program 04 - Game		
State Game Fund	3,427,739.37	
Federal	<u>32,650.54</u>	3,460,389.91
Sub-Program 05 - Fish		
State Game Fund	3,676,639.15	
Aquatic Habitat Fund	46,297.83	
Federal	<u>476,710.05</u>	4,199,647.03
Sub-Program 10 - Outdoor Education		
General Fund	29,992.71	
State Game Fund	902,736.80	
State Park Cash Revolving	<u>4,640.21</u>	937,369.72
Sub-Program 16 - Non-Game & Endangered Species		
General Fund	380,575.53	
Non-Game & Endangered Species Fund	143,924.78	
Federal	<u>33,230.20</u>	557,730.51
PROGRAM 336 - SUMMARY		
General Fund	904,700.39	
State Game Fund	12,776,426.13	
State Park Cash Revolving	999,900.38	
Non-Game & Endangered Species Fund	143,924.78	
Aquatic Habitat Fund	46,297.83	
Federal	<u>542,590.79</u>	15,413,840.30
Program 337 - Agency Administration		
General Fund	675,048.46	
Cowboy Trail Fund	413.30	
State Game Fund	1,738,732.31	
State Park Cash Revolving	800,414.01	
Habitat Cash	107,081.81	
Aquatic Habitat	<u>29.17</u>	3,321,719.06
Program 338 - Niobrara Council		
Local Management Council		
General Fund	19,197.43	
Niobrara Cash Fund	28,416.67	
Federal	<u>51,681.36</u>	99,295.46
Program 549 - Park Administration & Operation		
General Fund	5,155,750.10	
State Park Cash Revolving	8,762,272.93	
Cowboy Trail Fund	444.00	
Federal	<u>268.00</u>	13,918,735.03
Program 550 - Planning & Trails Coordination		
General Fund	<u>251,289.97</u>	251,289.97
Program 617		
- Engineering, Area Maintenance & Snowmobile		
General Fund	2,356,549.57	
State Game Fund	41,414.34	
State Park Cash Revolving	2,032,431.80	
Snowmobile Trail Cash Fund	200.00	
Aquatic Habitat Fund	<u>46,806.53</u>	4,477,402.24
Program 628 - Credit Card Discount		
State Game Fund	31,128.12	
State Park Cash Revolving	<u>51,221.45</u>	82,349.57

TOTAL OPERATION COSTS - 2000 \$ 52,258,094.04

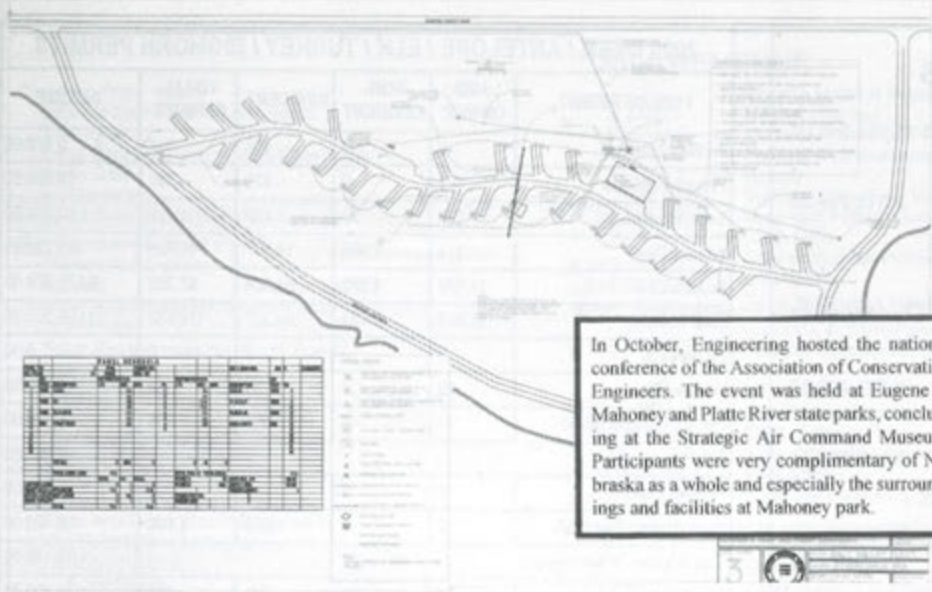
2000 DEER / ANTELOPE / ELK / TURKEY / BIGHORN PERMITS

TYPE OF PERMIT	LAND-OWNER	NON-RESIDENT	RESIDENT	TOTAL PERMITS	INCOME
Archery Antelope	0	29	298	327	\$ 9,878.50
Firearm Antelope	122	0	870	992	20,699.50
Total Antelope	122	29	1,168	1,319	30,578.00
Archery Deer	114	1,359	14,257	15,730	522,322.25
Firearm Deer	11,824	4,275	81,104	97,203	2,575,878.00
Total Deer	11,938	5,634	95,361	112,933	3,098,200.25
Archery Elk	0	0	0	0	0.00
Firearm Elk	19	0	39	58	4,793.60
Elk Applications (\$5.50)	37	0	901	938	5,159.00
Total Elk Income					9,952.60
Bighorn Sheep	0	0	1	1	0.00
Bighorn Appl. Fee (\$20)	0	0	1,806	1,806	36,120.00
Total Bighorn Sheep Income					36,120.00
Fall Turkey Archery	14	91	791	896	18,460.75
Fall Turkey Firearm	365	241	4,836	5,442	97,510.25
Spring Turkey Archery	19	540	3,101	3,660	82,338.50
Spring Turkey Firearm	733	2,118	12,911	15,762	340,914.50
Total Turkey	1,131	2,990	21,639	25,760	539,224.00
Grand Total	13,247	8,653	120,915	142,815	\$ 3,714,074.85
Permit Fees: Landowner - Turkey, \$8.25; Deer & Antelope, \$11; Elk, \$22.40; Nonresident - Turkey, \$56; Deer, \$150.00; Antelope, \$112; Resident - Turkey, \$16.75; Deer & Antelope, \$22.25; Elk, \$112; Bighorn Sheep, cost of permit covered by application fee.					

2000 PERMITS & STAMPS SOLD

TYPE OF PERMIT	NUMBER SOLD*	AMOUNT*
Resident Fish	138,309	\$ 1,763,439.75
3-Day Resident Fish	3,391	27,975.75
Resident Hunt	57,614	547,333.00
Res. Fish-Hunt Combo	46,122	1,003,153.50
Nonresident Hunt	25,132	1,382,260.00
Nonres. Annual Fish	7,501	262,535.00
3-Day Nonres. Fish	22,101	237,585.75
Aquatic Habitat Stamp	211,470	1,057,350.00
Resident Fur Harvest	4,850	81,237.50
Habitat Stamp	155,614	1,556,140.00
Annual Park Permit	157,520	2,205,280.00
Daily Park Permit	277,696	694,240.00
Duplicate Park Permit	49,974	349,818.00
Total	1,157,294	\$ 11,168,348.25

*2000 calendar year figures based on data available as of March 23, 2001



In October, Engineering hosted the national conference of the Association of Conservation Engineers. The event was held at Eugene T. Mahoney and Platte River state parks, concluding at the Strategic Air Command Museum. Participants were very complimentary of Nebraska as a whole and especially the surroundings and facilities at Mahoney park.



ENGINEERING

Engineering Division's duties are similar to those of private engineering, architectural and surveying firms — providing professional, technical and planning assistance to the agency.

Goals & Objectives

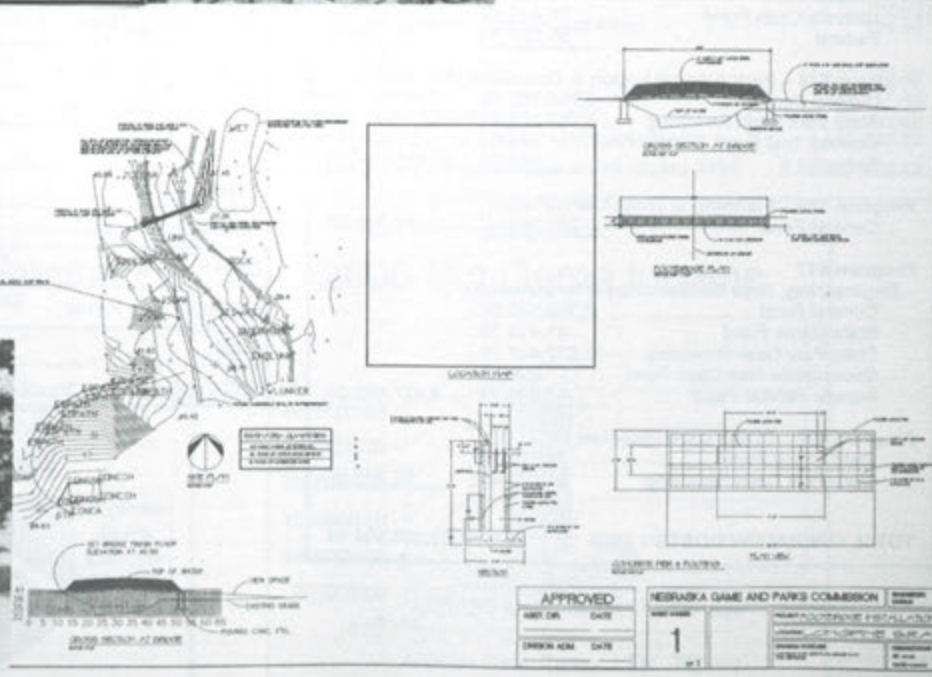
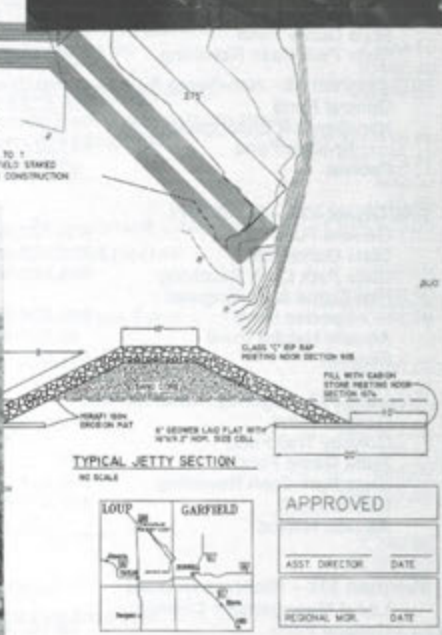
Develop appropriate design solutions for engineering and architectural projects.

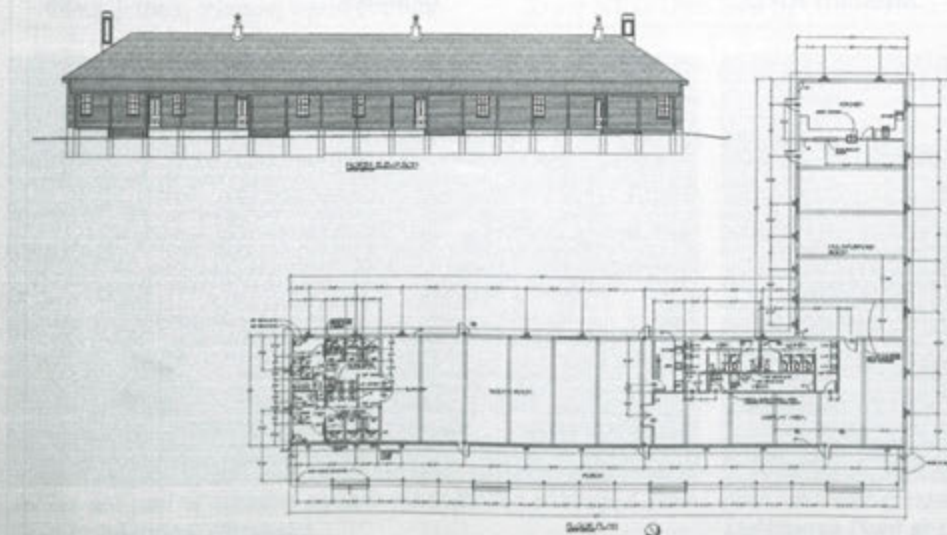
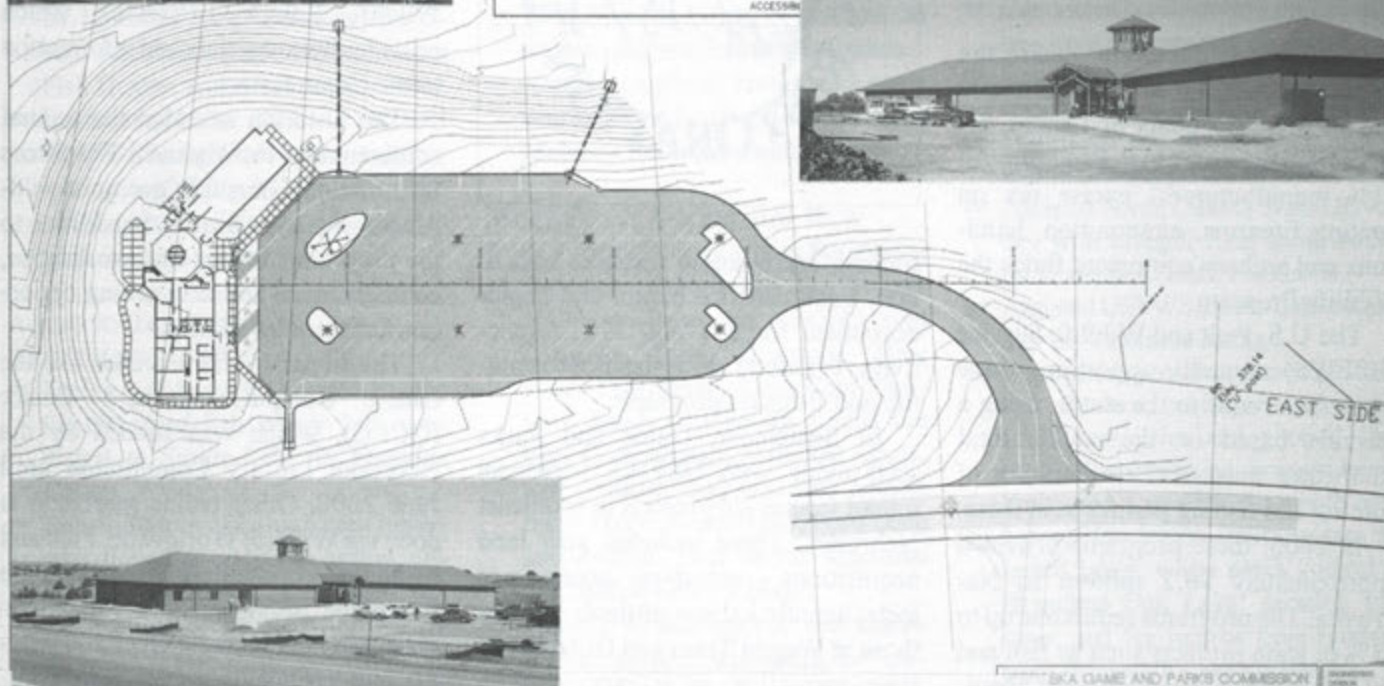
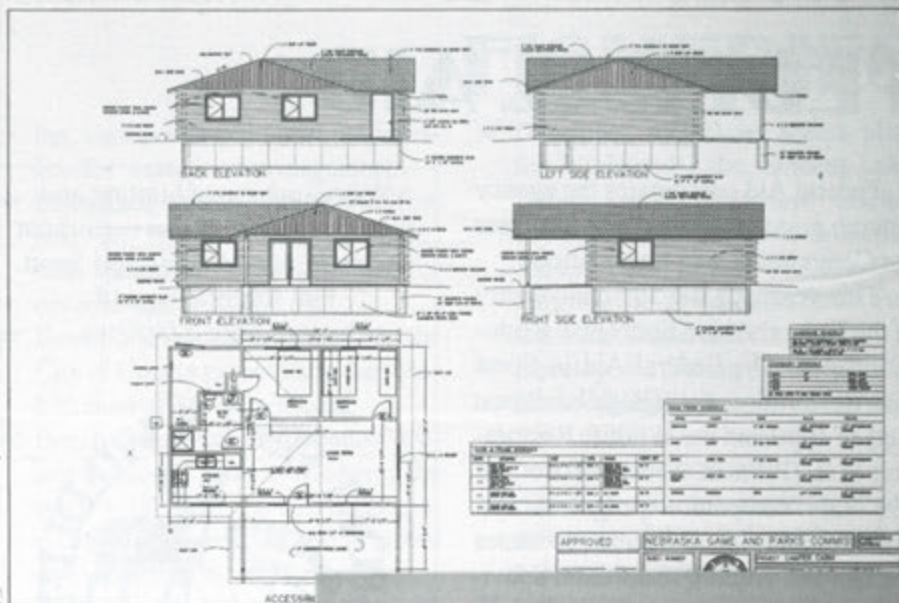
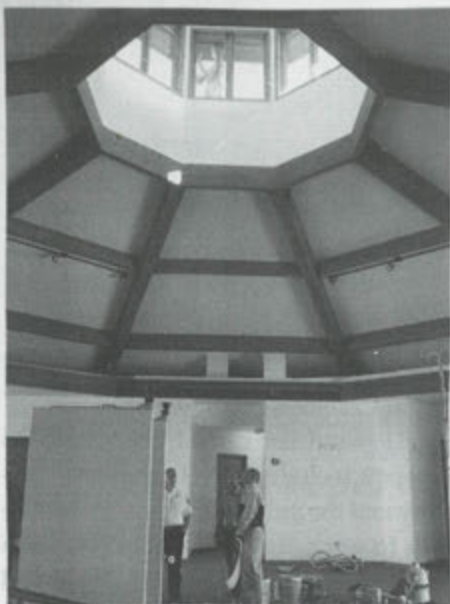
- ♦ Draw plans and write specifications for bidding Commission construction projects.
- ♦ Administer construction contracts, conduct inspections, and write reports.
- ♦ Select and work with private consulting firms hired to assist the Commission.
- ♦ Furnish Cadastral surveys, prepare legal descriptions and

provide construction survey layouts for agency projects.

- ♦ Produce construction specifications and handle record management.

Engineering and architectural designs are prepared for both new and repair capital construction projects, for competitive bidding and to facilitate construction. Surveying is done to establish a legal boundary for newly purchased areas or gather elevations for new construction.





FEDERAL AID

Federal Aid coordinates the agency federal grant programs and oversees the Commission's in-house library.

This year was the 50th anniversary of the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act. The Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act (Dingell-Johnson Act) of 1950 and the Wildlife Restoration Act (Pittman-Roberson Act) of 1937 are companion programs that provide financial assistance to states for fish and wildlife restoration activities.

A 10% manufacturers' excise tax on fishing supplies and a 3% excise tax on pleasure boats and sonar devices fund the Sport Fish Program. An 11% manufacturers' excise tax on hunting firearms, ammunition, handguns and archery equipment funds the Wildlife Program.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) annually apportions these excise tax funds to the states, using a formula based on the state's total land/water mass and the number of hunting and fishing permits sold there.

In 2000, these programs provided approximately \$6.2 million to Nebraska. The programs reimburse up to 75% of state projects such as fish and wildlife surveys, research, land acquisition, development and maintenance, technical assistance, hunter education

Your purchase of hunting and fishing equipment and motorboat fuels supports Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration and boating access facilities.



training and aquatic resource education. Each certified hunter and angler accounted for \$17 and \$14, respectively, in federal aid assistance to wildlife and fisheries programs.

In September, Game and Parks staff along with USFWS personnel toured federal aid projects in southeast Nebraska. These included new land acquisitions, motorboat access projects, aquatic habitat projects such as those at Wagon Train and Olive Creek state recreation areas, and a clean vessel pump-out facility along the Missouri River.

COMMISSION LIBRARY

The library continues to grow adding books and other materials. NGPC staff is notified periodically of new or additional items. Searching and retrieval continued with intense demand from Commission personnel.

Demand also came from outside the agency including UNL students, faculty and the public. The library continues to work closely with the Nebraska Library Commission and Fish and Wildlife Reference Service, which provides free materials and information to the Commission.

The librarian attended the annual conference of the National Resources Information Council (a group of wildlife librarians) in Seattle. In addition to the program sessions and workshops, contacts made and networking opportunities were invaluable.

The librarian did searches via the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC), which was funded by the Nebraska Library Commission until June 2000. Other online searching is done via Wildlife Worldwide, Fish and Fisheries Worldwide, Fish and Wildlife Reference Service, Library of Congress and many others. Over 200 wildlife and fisheries searches were completed, as well as numerous other topic requests.

FISHERIES

ADMINISTRATION

- Issued 3,413 Master Angler Awards.
- New state hook-and-line records recorded for smallmouth bass, white perch, bighead carp, shovelnose sturgeon and shorthead redhorse; bow and arrow records for shortnose gar and goldfish; underwater powered spearfishing records for striped bass and golden shiner; and surface spearfishing records for grass carp and gizzard shad.
- Issued the following permits: 248 Disabled Fishing; 248 Bait Vendor; 88 Missouri River Seining; 55 Private Aquaculturists; 16 Nonresident Fish Dealer; and two Put-and-Take.
- Implemented the "REEL in REWARDS" program to enhance participation in fishing by providing donated prizes as value-added incentives to purchase annual permits.

AQUATIC HABITAT

REHABILITATION PROGRAM

- Hydraulic dredging to reduce the likelihood of fish winter kill completed at Smith Lake in Sheridan County.
- Rehabilitation of Olive Creek Reservoir, including sediment basins, offshore breakwaters, jetties, basin contouring and outlet modification for water level management.
- Rehabilitation of Wagon Train Reservoir, including sediment/ nutrient dikes, jetties, islands, basin contour-

ing, hard points and outlet modification for water level management.

- Completed construction of 700-foot jetty on Willow Creek Reservoir, with additional jetties scheduled for construction in 2001.
- Developed an agreement with the City of Omaha to cost share the rehabilitation of Towl Park Pond.
- Began designing rehabilitation project at Summit Lake and lowered the water level to dry the basin in preparation for construction and to crowd fish and enhance their harvest.
- Worked with irrigation districts on maintaining water levels at Enders.
- Nearly completed design and engineering plans for rehabilitation of the Maloney Reservoir holding pond.

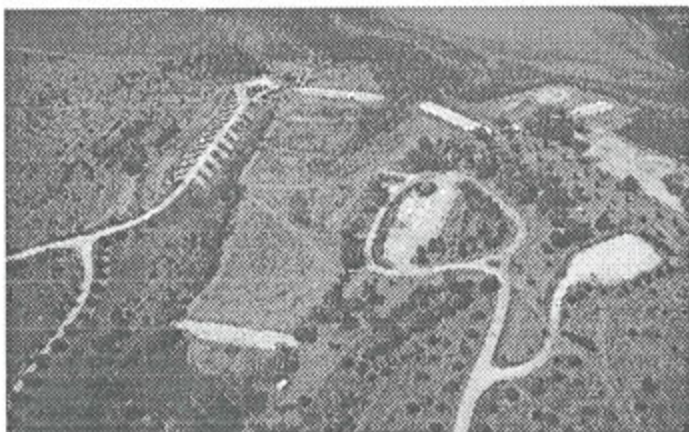
MOTORBOAT ACCESS AND NEW RESERVOIR CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

- Completed motorboat access projects at Calamus Reservoir, nine I-80 lakes (Bassway Strip, Dogwood, Blue Hole, Bufflehead, Kea, Coot Shallows, Sandy Channel #8, Cozad and East Gothenburg), Medicine Creek, Red Willow, Swanson and Enders reservoirs and Hackberry, West Long and Pelican lakes on the Valentine National Wildlife Refuge.
- Assisted in construction and motorboat access project planning for Powder Creek Lake, Lake Wanahoo, Wildwood Lake and Papio-Missouri River NRD Dam Site 6.

- Developed motorboat access plans for Wildwood Lake, Summit Lake, Defair Lake, Riverview Marina, Elwood Reservoir, Lake Maloney, Victory Lake, Big Alkali Lake, Cottonwood/Steverson Lake, South Pine Lake and Goose Lake.
- Developed a fishing access plan for Home Valley Lake.

MANAGEMENT SECTION

- Assessed fish communities in 108 reservoirs, lakes and ponds and 18 coldwater streams.
- Conducted creel surveys on 12 lakes, two trout streams and one canal.
- Renovated seven water bodies to remove undesirable fish communities.
- Monitored catches of black bass at tournaments reported by bass clubs.
- Assisted South Dakota State University with bluegill food habit studies on Watts and South Pine lakes.
- Assisted USFWS assess fish community on Valentine Refuge.
- Conducted special studies to evaluate fish feeders; walleye stocking of small reservoirs and gizzard shad population dynamics; crappie length limits and a special one-month open harvest (no length limit) on two selected lakes; white perch control at Branched Oak Lake; aeration systems; and tag returns from rainbow trout stocked in Lake Ogallala.
- Salvaged fish at Harlan County Reservoir stilling basin for dewatering for mandatory inspection.



Jetties are part of massive aquatic rehabilitation of Wagon Train Lake in southeast Nebraska.



New rock and crushed concrete windrows protect shoreline at Lighthouse Point at Lake Minatare in the Panhandle.



Urban Fishing and Youth Fishing programs joined forces to teach the fun of fishing to youngsters, who might not have other opportunities, through clinics and casting events.

- ✦ Provided management assistance to owners of private waters via: 131 telephone calls and 89 on-site visits.
- ✦ Served on the Water Quality Monitoring Advisory Committee.

URBAN FISHERIES PROGRAM

- ✦ Helped 24 cities improve fishing in their city park ponds.
- ✦ Received the *2000 Benefits Are Endless Award* from the Nebraska Recreation and Park Association.
- ✦ Established Community Lakes Enhancement and Restoration (CLEAR) program to coordinate efforts to rehabilitate city park ponds with the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, University of Nebraska-Lincoln and other agencies through the Environmental Trust Fund.
- ✦ Cooperated with Youth Fishing program on 26 fish clinics and 5 casting events (3,780 participants).
- ✦ Ended the fishing tackle loaner program to 14 state parks areas and several Omaha city parks.
- ✦ Helped the City of Plattsmouth fund their city park lake restoration.
- ✦ Constructed a new fishing pier at Crystal Cove in South Sioux City.
- ✦ Started winter trout stocking program at Crystal Springs Lake in Fairbury and Benson Park Lake in Omaha.
- ✦ Updated Urban program on agency web page and contributed to various agency publications and other promotional and communications efforts.
- ✦ Attended North American Lake Management conference in Miami.

PRIVATE WATERS PROGRAM

- ✦ Wrote a program narrative and developed a budget for this new program.
- ✦ Informed individuals and organizations of program availability through a variety of presentations, meetings and articles.
- ✦ Applied for an Environmental Trust Fund grant for habitat restoration on Nine Mile Creek in Morrill County.
- ✦ Provided management assistance to owners of private waters as follows: 35 on-site visits, 11 emails, 13 walk-ins, 141 letters and 241 phone calls.
- ✦ Inspected 69 private ponds and lakes to determine the suitability of stocking (59 approved).
- ✦ Issued seven private fish management authorization permits (for five renovations and two salvages); assisted in two renovations and one salvage.
- ✦ Developed agreement for public daytime ice fishing from Jan. 1, 2003, through Mar. 1, 2008, in exchange for stocking fish in a 300-acre private lake in Cherry County.
- ✦ Summarized white perch distribution information.

PRODUCTION SECTION

- ✦ Produced and stocked approximately 6.4 million fish (20 species) in 234 public and 28 private Nebraska water bodies, including:
 - 18,821 catchable-size channel catfish for Urban Fishing program and Free Fishing Day.
 - 60,060 catchable-size rainbow trout for Urban Fishing and Winter Trout programs.

- 19,810 brown trout for Lake Ogallala.
- 97,075 walleye (6-8 in.) to prey on white perch in Branched Oak Reservoir.
- 114,144 white bass fingerlings for Lake McConaughy.
- 293,866 hybrid striped bass (wipers) and 3,454 muskellunge (12-13 in.).
- Assisted with rehabilitation project on Mill Pond in Valentine.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SECTION

- ✦ Chaired Missouri River Natural Resources Committee and hosted annual meeting at Niobrara State Park.
- ✦ Addressed National Research Council committee on Missouri River Ecosystem Science on behalf of the MRNRC.
- ✦ Helped prepare for the 4th Annual Conference on Natural Resources of the Missouri River Basin, held in Bismarck, N.D. and presented a paper on Platte River instream flows.
- ✦ Coordinated MRNRC recommendations for an annual Operating Plan for the Missouri River and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers master manual alternative.
- ✦ Helped initiate a pallid sturgeon tagging study on the lower Platte River.
- ✦ Served on the Platte River Technical Committee (monitoring and research), including planning and protocol development.
- ✦ Provided input regarding Missouri River mitigation effort for Water Resources Development legislation.

WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM

- ✦ Helped evaluate possible impacts to Threatened and Endangered (T & E) species from a proposed levee improvement project along the Platte River between the Elkhorn River and U.S. 6 bridge near Ashland.
- ✦ Served on a Commission and local agency task force to review and fund a UNL study of pallid sturgeon and sturgeon chub in lower Platte River.
- ✦ Participated in efforts to maintain and restore habitat for threatened and endangered species in the central

Platte River, including a cooperative hydrology study; a plan to prevent future depletions of target flows; a plan to regulate surface or ground-water sources to augment river flows to meet target flow levels and improve frequency of occurrence; and recommendations to the USFWS Environmental Account manager regarding release of storage water from Lake McConaughy to meet target flows for T & E species in the central Platte River.

- ☛ Represented north-central states on the Instream Flow Council, serving as secretary-treasurer; attended IFC executive committee meeting and Biennial International Conference.

MISSOURI RIVER PROGRAM

- ☛ Conducted a recreational use survey of Missouri River from Fort Randall Dam to Ponca State Park in cooperation with the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks.
- ☛ Monitored fish populations in a variety of chute, backwater and main channel sites that were restored as part of the Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Bank Stabilization and Navigation Mitigation Project.
- ☛ Conducted an creel survey on the channelized Missouri River between Bellevue and Hamburg Bend, as part of the mitigation monitoring process.
- ☛ Sampled several main channel and chute sites on the Missouri River for a Platte River sturgeon study, conducted by UNL.
- ☛ Provided materials and assistance to USFWS for pallid sturgeon tagging and stocking project in the unchanneled Missouri River at Verdel.
- ☛ Issued tags and managed paddlefish archery and snagging seasons in the Missouri River, in cooperation with the South Dakota.
- ☛ Conducted a post-construction analysis of environmentally friendly dikes used to stabilize the bank line at Ponca State Park.



Fisheries technicians tag threatened pallid sturgeon on lower Platte River.

RESEARCH SECTION

- ☛ Coordinated intensive study to measure various water quality parameters and circulation patterns at Lake Ogallala, in cooperation with UNL, Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation, Nebraska Public Power and Nebraska DEQ.
- ☛ Funded an ongoing evaluation of the A-jacks offshore breakwaters at Branched Oak, conducted by UNL, to determine their value in controlling erosion and creating fringe wetlands within areas they protect from waves.
- ☛ Funded a bluegill movement study using radiotelemetry on Pelican and Hackberry Lakes, conducted by South Dakota State University.
- ☛ Developed land use inventory project for the Niobrara Basin (including Merritt and Box Butte reservoirs), funded by Bureau of Reclamation.
- ☛ Completed an outdoor recreation use mail survey for Enders, Swanson, Medicine Creek and Red Willow reservoirs, funded by the BOR and presented preliminary analyses at public meetings.
- ☛ Used Global Positioning System (GPS) to perform reservoir mapping projects and acquired a boat, which was then equipped with Hypack GPS system, and performed Nebraska's first lake bathymetric survey at Yankee Hill Reservoir (to produce a depth-contour map).

- ☛ Funded a Platte River fisheries management project by UNL to document sturgeon habitat use and associated species.
- ☛ Served on graduate committees for six MS students at UNL and one PhD student at SDSU.

LAKES AND RESERVOIRS PROGRAM

- ☛ Assisted with collecting 230 quarts of walleye egg at Sherman Reservoir.
- ☛ Marked over 2.2 million walleye with oxytetracycline (OTC) to evaluate the success of walleye stockings.
- ☛ Examined over 500 otoliths from young-of-the-year walleye for OTC marks (indicating stocked as opposed to naturally-produced fish) and negotiated a contract to have future OTC analysis performed by Southern Illinois University.
- ☛ Analyzed data from Harlan County Reservoir to determine biotic and abiotic factors affecting walleye recruitment. Developed multiple regression model that explained much of variability in walleye recruitment was due to spring outflows from Harlan, and the dynamics of the gizzard shad population (due in turn to the severity of winter). No evidence indicated that wipers have a negative impact on walleye in Harlan or any other reservoir in the state. Walleye recruitment in Harlan was higher in years when walleye were not stocked (indicating the sufficient natural reproduction).
- ☛ Updated fish population sampling software to use relational databases and made the software available to state fish & wildlife agencies nationwide via the Internet. Also incorporated a new standard survey analysis program for use with this program.

INFORMATION & EDUCATION

There were some major changes for I & E, the agency's information arm. The photo library started the process of storing photo files on the computer. The news release program went electronic, delivering the news to the media via e-mail. The mail room was remodeled to provide a better environment and security for the computer mailing systems.

I&E provides services to other divisions as well as to the public. I&E publishes *NEBRASKAland Magazine*, *Trail Tales*, *Outdoor Nebraska*, the hunting, fishing and boating guides, numerous brochures, pamphlets and other printed materials; produces TV and radio shows and news spots, and designs exhibits for Commission areas, State Fair, and sports & travel shows.

ART PROJECTS

Art staff designed the CRP-MAP Atlas, featuring county maps of privately-owned CRP land and state and federal lands open to the public for hunting, the annual hunting, fishing and boating guides and big game information. Art also produced the *NEBRASKAland* Calendar, the popular *Trail Tales* magazine for fourth graders and the *Outdoor Planner* for Project WILD.

Staff artists prepared illustrations and exhibits for the State Fair, five out-of state sports shows, three major sport shows and several smaller shows and mall exhibits in Nebraska. In addition, 18 interpretive signs ranging from 4 x 5 to 4 x 8 ft. were produced for six Watchable Wildlife sites across the state.

PHOTO LIBRARY

Photo Services began transferring its collection of color transparencies to a computer-based data system designed for large photographic collections. Each photo is coded with a unique ID number and other features to facilitate rapid, pinpoint searches. As of Dec. 31, the database held 10,891 images.

The library's lending policy was modified, and new charges adopted to reflect computer control methods and the current marketplace for images. More than 1,400 requests for images were handled, and at least 1,221 loans for a number of users were processed, including all divisions, *NEBRASKAland Magazine*, Environmental Trust, various state and federal

agencies and the public. Images illustrated agency, various state and federal publications, brochures, news releases, slide shows and programs. Approximately \$1,962 in fees were generated.

Photo supplied personnel with some 116 rolls of 12-exposure print film, 204 rolls of 24-exposure print film, 72 rolls of 24-exposure slide film, 149 rolls of 36-exposure slide film, 303 rolls of Provia film, 17 rolls of Velvia film, 4 rolls of Polaroid film, 111 copy slides. More than 650 rolls of film were processed commercially for the agency.

NEBRASKAland MAGAZINE

NEBRASKAland Magazine published ten 52-page issues, which included a wide variety of articles about wildlife, hunting, fishing, outdoor recreation and wildlife management across the state.

Highlights included a two-part turkey hunting guide, 10 pages of old photos contributed by readers showing the state's hunting and fishing heritage, an examination of Ted Turner's plans for his 200,000 Nebraska acres, and an in-depth explanation of the rise and fall of Nebraska's pheasant populations.

The magazine also took readers on three great hikes, a hunt for morel mushrooms, a star-gazing party, winter camping and canoe trips and a farm-country deer hunt. Natural history articles focused on coyotes, cooperheads, timber rattlers, coots and crows.

Featured anglers included a nine-year-old catching his first trout, a pro who makes a living tournament fishing and a retired couple pulling in trout. Hunters stalked snow geese behind "cow boards," followed rabbits and squirrels, used black powder shotguns and shared secrets on low-tech waterfowling and handcrafting hunting bows and arrows.

Features told the remarkable success of the Game and Parks Foundation, the Cedar Point Biological Research Station, Audubon's Spring Creek Prairie and the Museum of the Fur Trade. The magazine was a showcase for excellent photography and showed readers how to make better pictures in a four-part series.

NEBRASKAland had 36,775 subscribers with a renewal rate of 68%. Newsstand distribution averaged 2,625 copies per issue.

The *Outdoor Nebraska* tabloid, which carries timely information and news features, was included in the January, April and August-September issues and was distributed through a network of permit agents and other distributors.

TV & RADIO

The *Outdoor Nebraska* TV program completed its 4th season on Nebraska Educational Television in April, and began its 5th season in October. New graphics, segments and other improvements were implemented. Funding was again provided in part by the Nebraska Game and Parks Foundation.

The show continues to rate as one of the best in the U.S. and Canada. It ranked fourth among all states and provinces in the Association for Conservation Information (ACI) 2000 competition.

Efforts to inform the public are augmented by periodic video news releases to stations and by responding to video requests from the media. TV and other I&E staff also make live appearances on television and radio. The *Outdoor Nebraska* radio show is a 10-minute program that airs weekly on 44 stations. The show can also be heard over the agency Web site.

NEWS PROGRAM

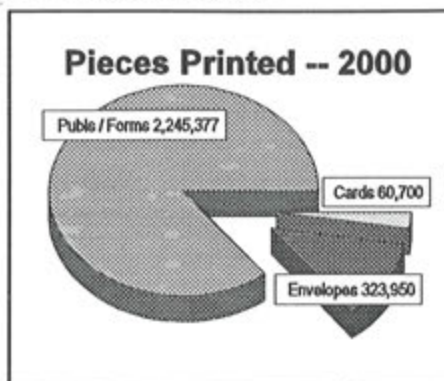
A major change was made in the way news and information is distributed to news media across the state. Rather than mailing weekly news packets, news items are now sent electronically via e-mail. The result is a savings in time as well as the cost of paper, printing and postage. Information can be sent the same day it happens, making it much more timely.

Photos and maps accompanying some articles are also posted on-line, where they can be downloaded. The outdoor report is distributed in the same manner. This change makes it possible for Nebraska newspapers, radio and television stations, Associated Press, Nebraska Press Association, Game and Parks employees, several regional and national magazines, and other outdoor media to receive information in a timely fashion.

More than 360 news releases and 52 weekly outdoor reports were written and provided to the media during 2000. Those

news releases and outdoor reports are also posted on the web site, where they can be read by a worldwide audience.

GPC News, the employee newsletter, updates staff on various aspects of agency work. Produced by I&E, most articles are written by employees of various divisions. Other news department duties include coordinating the Outdoor Alley exhibit at the Nebraska State Fair and producing the permit agent newsletter.



PUBLICATIONS

Printing and publishing manages the production of more than 450 different brochures and pamphlets, various other agency publications and hundreds of forms for a variety of uses.

Publications range from full-color brochures to one and two-color pamphlets, stationery and short-run technical publications. I&E staff provides assistance to other divisions to determine the best way to produce a project.

The agency print shop produced 645 jobs, up 14½% from the 563 done in 1999. This included pamphlets, booklets, envelopes, news releases, surveys, cards, park tickets, camping registrations, various forms, and numerous other items. This required 2,245,377 sheets of paper; 60,700 cards; 323,950 envelopes totaling 2,630,027 sheets and 4,132,702 press impressions. This included 42 jobs requiring 2 or 3 colors and ranged from print runs of 200 to 75,000.

HABITAT STAMP CONTEST

Armando Villarreal of Imperial won the adult division of the 23rd annual Habitat Stamp Art Contest with an illustration of Canada geese, which is featured on the 2001 Habitat Stamp. It was his the second win.

Just under 1,000 students entered the three categories in the Youth Division. Selections of their art are featured in an exhibit displayed at locations across the

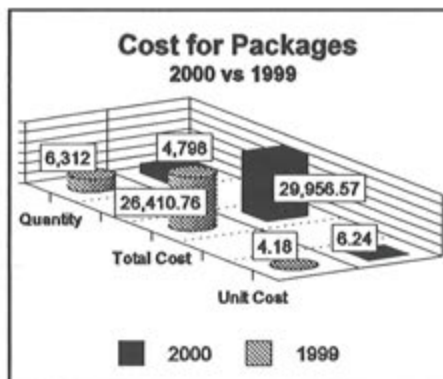
state. The Omaha Fish and Wildlife Club again donated contest awards: \$200 to the adult winner and \$50 to each youth winner: Erik Radowski, Omaha, Primary; Kristen White, Omaha, Junior; Brandon Mares, Falls City, Senior.

MAIL & SHIPPING

I&E handled 609,979 pieces of outgoing mail and packages during the year, compared to 670,695 in 1999. Cost for mailing & shipping was \$247,675.29 compared to \$281,013.16 in 1999. Cost averaged 40.1¢ per piece.

First class pre-sort resulted in savings of \$4,235.95 for 169,438 pieces. Total outgoing mail processed: Regular mail, including pre-sort, 336,914 pieces at \$160,981.20; bulk, 268,267 pieces at \$56,737.52. UPS and other package services accounted for 4,798 packages at \$29,956.57, compared to 6,312 in 1999 at \$26,410.76, a unit increase of 49.3%.

There were 3,075 general information requests compared to 3,644 filled in 1999. Hunting information packets were sent to 17,277 nonresident hunters.



REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Division information officers are located at Alliance, North Platte, and Omaha to provide information to regional media, also handling local programs and area articles and photos for *NEBRASKAland Magazine*.

District I - Alliance

Duties of the Panhandle public information officer include assignments for *NEBRASKAland Magazine*, local and statewide news releases and media contacts with the region's 17 newspapers, 14 radio and 2 TV stations.

Other responsibilities included programs, information requests, workshops and acting as news director for the Pressey High School State Championship Si'houette Shoot and the National Cornhusker Trap Shoot. Workshop in-

struction included rifle marksmanship classes at Becoming an Outdoors-Woman and Outdoor Skills Camps, youth creative arts workshops and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Nebraska Junior Duck Stamp judging.

Counter sales at the District 1 office totaled \$180,132.90 with big game permit sales of \$121,485.25. That compares to \$189,521.22 in 1999, with big game permit sales of \$132,168.50.

District IV - North Platte

The public information officer supervises the staff assistant and provides support with public information and permit sales. Permit sales and other receipts totaled \$302,592.17, down \$86,688.56 from 1999 (22.3%). It was the first decrease in across counter sales in the past 10 years. This decrease is attributed to access to the Kearney office by constituents from the eastern portion of the district and online purchases.

The District IV PIO contributes 60 or more pages to *NEBRASKAland Magazine* and directs the Cornhusker High School Trap Shoot. The 2000 shoot in May registered 807 shooters, a 31-year record. Other activities include weekly on-location TV features, after the 6 p.m. news on KNOP-TV that have aired since 1986. The PIO is a master hunter education instructor in firearms training. Other duties include radio shows, broadcast and print interviews, preparing local news releases, assisting with Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) and Advanced BOW.

Omaha Metro Office

This office is open seven days a week March-October and Monday-Friday the rest of the year. Space is shared with the Department of Economic Development's Division of Travel & Tourism in the Info Center at 1212 Bob Gibson Blvd.

An average of 300 people per day visited the center. Counter sales totaled \$388,958.48, down \$28,319.78 (6.8%) from 1999. Big game permits accounted for \$238,146.25 a drop of \$25,103.25 (9.5%) from 1999.

Staff continues statewide and local public relations efforts, and nearly 30 stations carried radio, TV and media-related programs each week, including personal appearances. Metro staff also coordinated such special events as the Omaha Bass Show, Omaha Sports Show and provided support for other agency programs, projects and functions.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Commission embraces the use of new technologies to serve customers and support staff. Information Technologies (IT) is responsible for agency computer systems, networks and online information services (web sites).

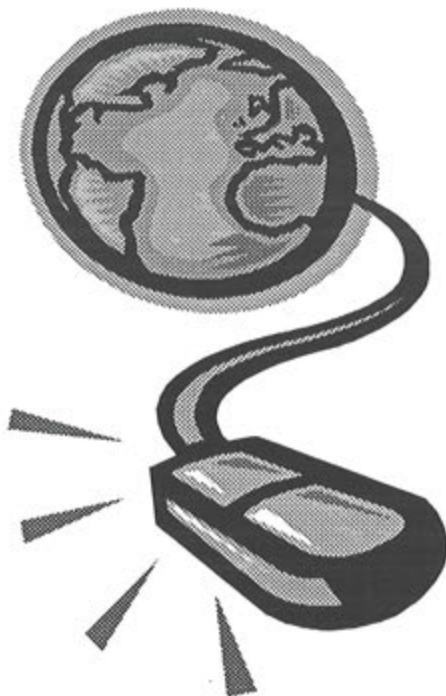
IT is a national leader in developing and implementing many different types of online programs and services. For more than six years, IT has maintained a T1 connection to the Internet with access for all employees to web resources and e-mail. The agency employs state-of-the-art Intranet for information sharing among divisions and staff statewide. Computer systems are continually updated, along with workstations and networks to improve staff productivity and efficiency.

BEING FIRST AND STAYING #1

The Commission's web site was the first state government site of its kind in the U.S. It has served as a model for other states in developing their own online services. Seminars on developing online recreation and wildlife information continually point to the NGPC web site as an example of what can be accomplished.

The web site has brought about global awareness of the land, people, natural resources and recreation opportunities available in Nebraska. Requests for information on hunting, fishing and vacationing in Nebraska now come from around the world, not just neighboring states. The Commission web sites have received awards for design and content from *Webmaster Magazine* (a top 50 Internet Website), *NetGuide* (4-star rating) and Simon Frazier University for "the Best Internet Presentation of Wild-

life" and *Studyweb* for the Ashfall web page. In 1996 the Association for Conservation Information awarded the Commission's web site first place in that category.



ONLINE INFORMATION

The Commission web site offers more than 2,000 pages of information, all attractively presented in state of the art format along with quality photographs and graphic design. The web site hosts more than 1,500 images depicting Nebraska wildlife and park subjects.

The web sites include dynamically created pages such as a discussion forum on outdoor topics and access to more than a dozen agency databases. Web site visitors can search historical Master Angler awards, deer trophy citations, fish stocking reports and a listing of all

Commission-owned or leased land. Agency news releases and outdoor reports are also maintained in a searchable archive that can be accessed by outdoor enthusiasts. *NEBRASKAland Magazine* online includes information on upcoming issues, special publications, multi-media offerings and the ability to send a "Virtual Postcard."

E-COMMERCE LEADER

The Commission is a leader in Nebraska government e-commerce initiatives. This was the first state agency in Nebraska to offer secure credit card purchases over the Internet. On the web sites a person can purchase a Nebraska hunting or fishing license, subscribe to *NEBRASKAland*, order items from the NEBRASKAland gift catalog or get a duplicate hunter education certificate. In 2000 a person could purchase archery and muzzleloader deer and fall turkey permits with a Visa or Mastercard. Total online sales during the year amounted to more than \$1,158,273.

HEAVY TRAFFIC

The web site went online in October 1994. At the time it debuted, there were only about 500 web sites on the entire Internet. The World-Wide Web was a new invention. The agency web site averaged about 40 visitors per day the first week online. Now over 3,000,000 visitors a year. Current visitation averages around 7,500-9,000 unique clients served per day or around 50,000+ visitors per week. On any given day we host visitors from all 50 states and at least 30 different foreign countries including such distant places as Singapore, Yugoslavia, Malaysia and New Zealand.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Law Enforcement Division experienced another interesting and productive year in 2000. Conservation officers were able to expand their support of and involvement in youth educational activities on several fronts.

The division provided a contingent of 1 officers and 2 office staff to assist at the Cornhusker High School Trap Shoot at Doniphan in May. Four officers were assigned to the youth silhouette shoot at Pressey Wildlife Management Area in, up from previous representation by one or two officers. Many officers also helped with youth outdoor camps, youth pheasant and waterfowl hunts, school programs and many other activities and opportunities for our youth.

The division has also been involved in other arenas to enhance communications with our constituents. One major effort centers around celebration of the Nebraska Conservation Officer centennial in 2001. Committees met throughout the year to develop projects to enhance public awareness about Conservation Officers for the upcoming centennial.

In addition, the Nebraska Conservation Officers Association along with the Commission will host the 2001 North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association meeting in Omaha as a centerpiece for the centennial observation. The 20th annual conference will bring as many as 1,000 officers and their families from across North America to Nebraska.



As always, the Law Enforcement seeks opportunities to improve overall operational effectiveness, and was able to begin a limited reorganization in 2000 geared to this goal. The division training program has grown to a point where more staff time needed to be dedicated to support it. As a result, a new staff supervisor position was created. One of the supervisor's primary duties will be coordinating training for the division. This dedication of a staff person to training coordination will allow enhancement of C.O. training particularly in new areas that have been neglected due to limited available staff resources. Some immediate areas of training emphasis will be youth education and communications as well as overall constituent communications and cooperation directed at such groups as landowners and, on the other end of the constituent spectrum, urban dwellers. Some additional restructuring options are being considered to further enhance and streamline operations.

TRAINING

The overwhelming majority of the people contacted by conservation officers are cooperative and understanding. However, as with any law enforcement entity that issues warnings and citations and makes arrests, there will always be a some potentially violent individuals to be dealt with. Therefore, officers must be trained to provide safety for the officer and the public and attempt to limit the potential liability of the agency.

During this past year 8 volunteer conservation officers served as certified firearms instructors who watched over and trained their fellow CO's as they completed their biannual firearms training. The five defensive tactics instructors were busy this year with each spending a number of days and nights away from home training officers in alternative force options.

OFFICER COMPOSITION

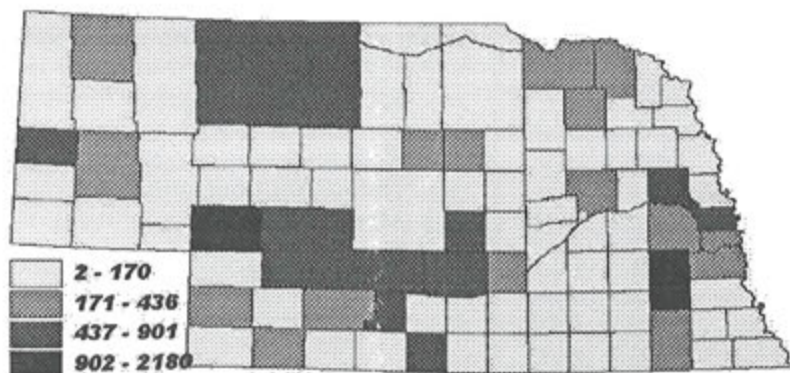
During 2000, Law Enforcement had an complement of 59 positions including 1 division administrator, 1 assistant division administrator, 1 staff supervisor (as of November), 1 administrative secretary, 1 staff assistant, 1 staff conservation officer, 6 district supervisors and 47 conservation officers.

A look at the makeup of the officer corps shows they average 46 years of age with 18 years of service. These figures are extremely high when compared to other law enforcement agencies. There are several generalizations that can be made when analyzing the overall effectiveness and productivity of a work force consisting of such composition. After 18 years of service officers are polished, experienced, tend to make a minimal mistakes, are well established and respected within the community and are dependable and predictable.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

During the year, officers presented or were primary contributors to 599 exposure such as youths going home and relating their experiences to their parents, siblings and friends after taking

Case Distribution 1996-2000



informational and educational programs that directly reached some 12,000 people. This doesn't even consider the secondary part in one of the outdoor youth camps. During this past year officers dedicated a total of 2,415 hours and drove 26,845 miles in support of educational programs.

CONTACTS / CASES

During this year officers contacted 208,525 people during the course of their duties and made a total of 4,125 cases for violations of statutes and regulations. Law Enforcement received 5,031 complaints during the year, and officers logged 3,730 hours and drove 53,351 miles investigating these complaints.

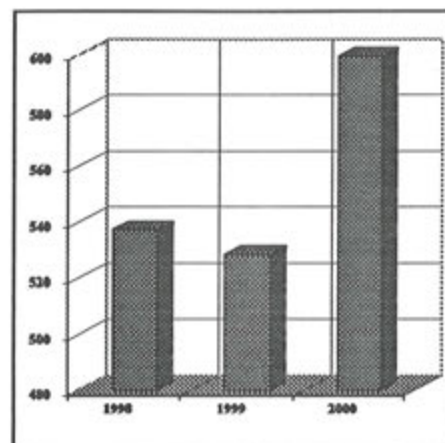
Cases by Category	
Parks	1,238
Fish & Bullfrogs	1,052
Boating	583
Deer	255
Migratory Birds	247
Upland & Small Game	136
State Wildlife Areas	124
Turkey	55
Miscellaneous	38
Furbearers	37
Revocation of Permits	13
Non-Game	8
Traffic	7
Antelope	7
Misc. Big Game	1

OPERATION GAME THIEF

Operation Game Thief is a cooperative wildlife law enforcement program sponsored by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and the Nebraska Wildlife Protectors Association. NWPA is the civilian board responsible for generating reward funds for the Operation Game Thief program. OGT is similar to the well-known Crime Stoppers program and offers rewards for information resulting in arrests for game law violations. Calls made to OGT during 2000 resulted in 83 investigations, with 21 of them leading to 34 cases being made, while another 20 are in some stage of investigation or have not yet made it through the court system.

Fines and court costs resulting from these tips totaled \$4,477 with \$16,675 in liquidated damages assessed. Involved in the completed cases were 15 illegal deer, over 40 ducks and geese, as well as over 20 fish. Rewards paid during the year totaled \$1,582.00. Most people reporting violations do not show great interest in

obtaining a reward. In lieu of a reward, some of those reporting violations chose a subscription to *NEBRASKA Land Magazine*. The OGT Reward Fund supplied the money for the subscriptions.

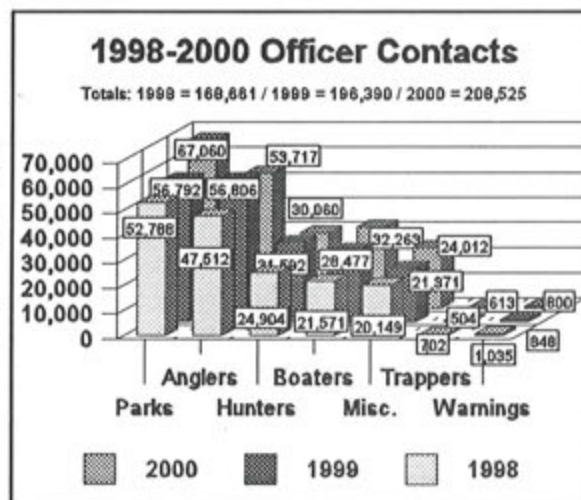


Programs Given

Programs play an important role in gaining voluntary compliance with state laws and regulations. Before 1998, the number of programs given by Law Enforcement officers during a year was not recorded. The chart above compares the number of programs presented from 1998-2000.

Officer Contacts

The chart at right illustrates the increase in the number of contacts made by conservation officers over the last three years. During 2000, many categories showed increases in officer contacts compared to previous years.



DIVISION	HOURS	DAYS	MILES	FTE's
Administration	989	123.62	8,062	.77
Budget & Fiscal	407	50.87	5,695	.31
Fisheries	171.5	21.43	2,397	.13
Information & Education	99	12.37	346	.08
Outdoor Education	9,963.75	1,245.46	104,042	7.78
Parks	9,860.5	1,232.56	136,240	7.70
Personnel	191.75	23.96	5,113	.15
Wildlife	4,168.75	521.09	74,003	1.80
Total	25,851.25	3,231.36	335,898	18.72

Law Enforcement provides wide support to other agency programs, including record-keeping for the Hunter Education program, management of the agency two-way radio system, serving as permitting entity and liaison (in conjunction with Wildlife Division staff), for wildlife rehabilitation groups, assisting Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks to draft statute and regulation, and survey work among others. Chart at left illustrates the support provided to other divisions.

OPERATIONS & CONSTRUCTION

This is a service division that provides administration, engineering, construction, maintenance and other related work where special skills and equipment are required. Work includes repair, renovation and construction of buildings, roads, parking lots, lakes and underground utilities, and the daily supervision and maintenance of the unmanned recreation areas assigned to the Lincoln maintenance district. Work falls into six general categories:

1. **Recreation Area Maintenance:** mowing, painting, building repair, garbage pickup, landscaping and tree planting.
2. **Recreation Area Management:** collection of fees, regulation enforcement and crowd control.
3. **Utilities:** construction and repair of electric, water and sewer services.
4. **Heavy Equipment:** road maintenance, lake dredging, dam building, material and equipment hauling, welding and fabricating.
5. **Building and Trades:** building construction and repair, cabinet making, concrete work and roofing.
6. **Purchasing and Contract:** specification writing for material and equipment purchase and the letting of small contracts to compliment force account work.

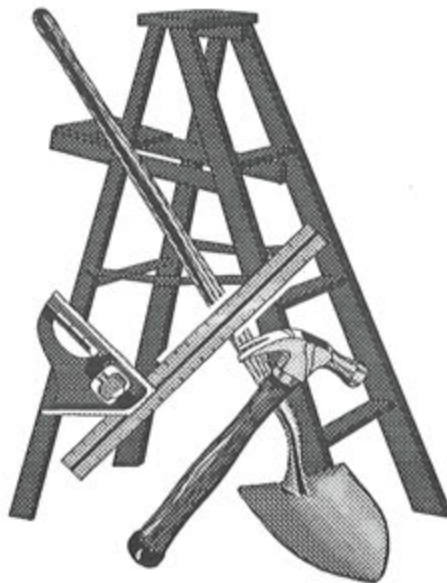
These categories overlap and intertwine so that many times clear lines of responsibility are difficult to define, but each is extremely important to the work of the division.

PERSONNEL

The division had budget authority for 32 full-time positions. At the end of 2000 all positions were filled. During 2000, we hired 92 seasonal or temporary employees, for which we expended \$470,290.00.

TRANSPORTATION & EQUIPMENT

Operations and Construction provided a wide variety of equipment, such as air compressors, water pumps, tree spades, stump cutters, tractors, trucks



and loaders, to area superintendents for temporary use to complete numerous projects. Bulk purchases of maintenance supplies were delivered to the Lincoln Operations Shop, inventoried, and transported to the major areas of the park system.

Gasoline and diesel fuel were provided for agency vehicles from pumps at 3001 "Y" St. in Lincoln. During 2000, 26,479 gallons of gasohol, 20,650 gallons of diesel, 34 quarts of oil and 34 gallons of antifreeze were dispensed to agency vehicles. Average cost per gallon was \$1.267 for gasohol and 97.7¢ for diesel. Equipment repair costs were \$103,825.00. The average cost of a gallon gasoline increased 35.5¢, while diesel increased 33.3¢ over 1999 costs.

EQUIPMENT PURCHASED

Four (4) one-ton pickups, one (1) 3/4-ton pickup, three (3) self-propelled mowers, one (1) vibratory compactor, two (2) 15' rotary cutters, one (1) 40-ton goose-neck trailer, three (3) computers, two (2) printers, one (1) copier.

PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2000

Ak-Sar-Ben Aquarium – Enlarged outdoor shooting area.

Alexandria SRA – Installed corrugated metal pipe between lakes, installed 700 feet of 8-in. PVC drain line from the

artesian well to railroad right-of-way, installed waterline in east campground.

Bassett Office District 2 – Constructed cabinet for fax machine and postage station.

Bluewing WMA – Removed trees from wetlands to facilitate fencing north and south boundaries.

Bordeaux Creek WMA – Set up stage for July 22, dedication.

Branched Oak SRA – Completed Phase 2 of Area 1 campground; hauled approximately 2,000 yards of fill dirt to finish grade around Wildlife Division's shop building; replaced partitions in two Middle Oak Creek shower/latrine buildings; built two double-sided, handicap-accessible latrines for Area 1 campground; repaired boat ramp in Area 4, and installed 21 electrical pedestals in Area 4 campground.

Calamus SRA – Relocated laterals for trailer dump station at Little York Point, hauled and stockpiled riprap from irrigation canal to Little York Point, removed sediment from south effluent pond of hatchery,

Central Office – Added cabinets and counters in mail room, reinforced basement floor in front of freight elevator, constructed and installed literature racks and privacy screens in Parks office.

Chadron State Park – Installed vinyl flooring and carpet and added sidewalks and patios for cabins 1-16, demolished and removed old structures and debris from new property at park entrance.

Champion Mill SRA – Completed three winters' work to remove about 35,000 cubic yards of sediment for renovation of Champion Lake, hauled 300 cubic yards of sand to construct a 75' x 75' swimming beach and hauled and placed riprap on 900 feet of shoreline.

Cowboy Trail at Norfolk – Set up stage for June 3 trail dedication in conjunction with National Trails Day.

Deep Well WMA – Disked approximately 20 acres of wetlands to control reed canarygrass.

NGPC State Fair Area – Routine

cleanup and repairs for State Fair preparation, repaired indoor and outdoor aquarium display tanks.

Fort Robinson State Park – Removed sediment from Soldier Creek, resurfaced two parking lots and constructed and surfaced with crushed rock 1.3 miles of road to the Grabel Ponds, removed cattails and sediment to deepen Grabel Ponds 1, 2, & 3; repaired or replaced stall doors in Mare Barn.

Fred Thomas WMA – Built 650 feet of gravel road, a 100 x 50-ft. gravel-surfaced parking lot, and a viewing platform overlooking Niobrara River.

Gadwall WMA – Disked approximately 10 acres of wetlands to control reed canarygrass.

Greenwing WMA – Cleared area for wetland habitat restoration, constructed a dike, installed water-level control structure and filled three reuse pits.

Kirlpatrick Basin North WMA – Disked approximately 20 acres of wetlands to control reed canarygrass.

Lake McConaughy SRA – Built a 300 ft. x 200 ft. parking lot at Arthur Bay; removed blow sand from Cedar Vue boat ramp and at Martin Bay; removed trees and improved beach access at Lone Eagle Campground; connected 21 heat pump wells at visitor center.

Lake Minatare SRA – Shingled Scout shelter and shop building; remodeled bathroom, replaced windows, and made other minor repairs to superintendent's residence.

Lewis and Clark SRA – Con-

structed five cabins, enlarged existing Weigand Marina boat ramp parking lot, and made emergency repairs at marina boat launching area.

Long Pine SRA – Installed Geoweb for slope stabilization at parking lot, constructed and surfaced with limestone chips a 1,250-ft. trail, filled in and covered two concrete structures.

Louisville SRA – Hauled fill and re-shouldered existing asphalt roads throughout area.

Eugene T. Mahoney State Park – Replaced concrete and brick at Activity Center entrance, repaired road near Kiewit Lodge, poured concrete for sidewalks around flagpole, and at entrance to Kiewit Lodge, installed electric meters in Activity Center and selected cabins, repaired roof and ventilation system on Little Creek shower building, replaced windows in cabins and residences, completed four-bedroom Cabin 52.

Medicine Creek SRA – Constructed and gravel surfaced $\frac{3}{4}$ -mi. of road from Trail 10 to headquarters building.

Meridian WMA – Moved and set 20 ft. x 12 ft. metal storage building from Rose Creek WMA.

Mormon Island SRA – Dewatered and repaired water main break at east end of area.

North Platte Office District 4 – Removed asphalt, excavated and re-compacted fill for storage building site.

Pawnee SRA – Constructed two double-sided, handicap-accessible latrines for west and east beach areas.

Pibel Lake SRA – Installed riprap for outlet structure protection, elevated existing well, poured concrete pad for well, and constructed a gravel-surfaced 75 ft. x 50 ft. parking lot.

Pintail WMA – Disked approximately 10 acres of wetlands to control cattails and reed-canarygrass.

Platte River State Park – Built and installed steps for above-ground fuel storage tanks.

Ponca State Park – Constructed 1,750 feet of new gravel-surfaced access road and 100 x 25 ft. gravel-surfaced parking lot, provided chlorinator for parks water system.

Smith Falls State Park – Installed modular home for superintendent's residence, including a walkout basement, water and electrical service, wood deck and concrete patio; shared cost of crushed rock with Cherry County to resurface 4 mi. of entrance road.

Spike Rush WMA – Disked approximately 40 acres of wetlands to control reed-canarygrass.

Stagecoach SRA – Constructed two double-sided, handicap-accessible toilets for the new campground.

Two Rivers SRA – Replaced four windows in Fawn Meadows shower building, extended laterals on central trailer dump station.

Valentine Maintenance District – Furnished materials for area superintendents to construct three double-sided, handicap-accessible toilets.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

CONSERVATION ED CONFERENCE

Outdoor Education sponsored the Conservation Education Conference for volunteers that assist with the Youth Fishing, Hunter Education, Project WILD and Boater Education programs, and 228 volunteers attended. The conference is held in even-numbered years to thank and update volunteers. The USFWS Federal Aid Division provided financial support for the conference.

AK-SAR-BEN AQUARIUM OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER

The "Big Blue Catfish" has now been on display for four years and is still the focal point for visitors. A good percentage ask if we still have this fish. There are still reports of TV clips being shown of the fish, giving national recognition.

Water Works, an annual event for 5th grade students from Douglas & Sarpy counties, provides day-long instruction about the wise use of water resources. It is attended by 1,600 students, who are instructed by more than 100 volunteers. The aquarium was the destination of 318 field trip groups, accounting for 12,580 individuals. Most were school groups.

The school aquatic ed program provided 277 different materials for classroom use by 61 instructors across the state. An aquatic trunk, developed for K-12 students for classroom use, has become so popular, a second trunk has been prepared and is ready for use.

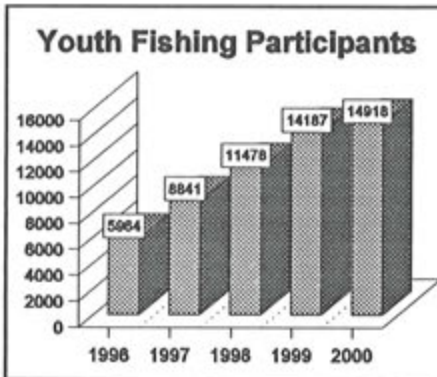
Various adult workshops were held. The most popular was an antler scoring workshop. Hunters could bring in their trophies to see if they qualified for any awards. Other workshops covered fly tying and fly casting and were cosponsored by the Cornhusker Fly Fishers.

Cornhusker Fly Fishers and Schramm Park photography club meet monthly at the aquarium. Volunteer Ruth Green continues to conduct bird banding workshops once a month September-April.

In addition to regular duties aquarium personnel also served the agency by:

- Selling 4,407 big game permits
- All sales totaled over \$190,100.
- Operating a deer check station for 117 days and checking more than 1,095 deer

- Answering management questions
- Weighing state record and Master Angler fish as needed
- Issuing deer salvage tags as needed
- Assisting with Outdoor Skills Camps at Halsey and the Eastern Nebraska 4-H Centers.



YOUTH FISHING PROGRAM

The Youth Fishing program had its most successful year ever in 2000. Fishing workshops were held statewide with help from volunteers in connection with schools, scout troops, clubs, churches, civic organizations, camps, city park and rec. programs, and NGPC employees.

A typical workshop included teaching basic fishing skills or an assisted fishing outing for the kids. Aquatic education supplies are shipped as requested including fishing tackle, posters, videos, coloring books, and educational materials.

In the year 2000:

- ◆ 181 fishing workshops were held.
- ◆ 14,918 Nebraska youth and adults attended clinics.
- ◆ 524 volunteers participated.
- ◆ 6,983 contributed hours from both certified and non-certified volunteers.
- ◆ 12 instructor certification workshops held statewide.

PROJECT WILD

Project WILD, the agency wildlife education program, has undergone some dramatic changes in the last 10 years. Originally directed to classroom teachers, it reached well over 10,000 teachers. PW now focuses on pre-service teachers – students majoring in elementary or secondary education – and reaches every college and university in the state.

Preliminary evaluation shows that

these new teachers make good classroom use of Project WILD activities, which provide wildlife awareness, knowledge and skills for young learners. Project WILD is also now a standard training program for Girl Scouts and correlated with Girl Scout badge requirements.

During 2000, Project WILD writing conferences were held with teachers and curriculum specialists to correlate PW activities with state education standards for science, math, social studies and language arts. This should be powerful tool and make PW highly usable in meeting state standards.

Trail Tales, our wildlife education magazine, is sent to all 4th grade students in the state. It continues to earn awards for content and educational excellence. Each story now correlates with suggested Project WILD activities, and teachers have greater choices for extending wildlife-related topics in their classes. *Trail Tales* creates significant exposure to wildlife and wildlife habitat needs. Individual subscriptions grew to over 1,300 in 2000.

BOATING

Boating's major responsibilities are (1) Administration – boat registration data entry and monitoring, new legislation, and general overseeing of the program budget; (2) Boating Safety Education – certification of instructors, distribution of education materials, certification of students, and certification of education classes, and (3) Boating Law Enforcement – patrols, accident investigation, and safety exams.

Administration

Boat registrations have grown gradually from 59,755 in 1991 to 73,638 in 2000. County treasurers handle boat registrations, reporting to the Commission as the central repository.

Personal Watercraft (PWC) registrations increased from 1,427 in 1991 to 8,041 in 2000. WC registrations average 10% of total boat registrations nationally and make up 11% here. Nebraska ranks 38th nationally in total registrations. Partnerships with the Department of Motor Vehicles and county treasurers

expanded in 2000, and in September DMV began storing boat registration data, now easily accessible to treasurers. Registrations now resemble those for motor vehicles. This process speeds up issuing registrations, and NGPC staff no longer duplicate registration data entry.

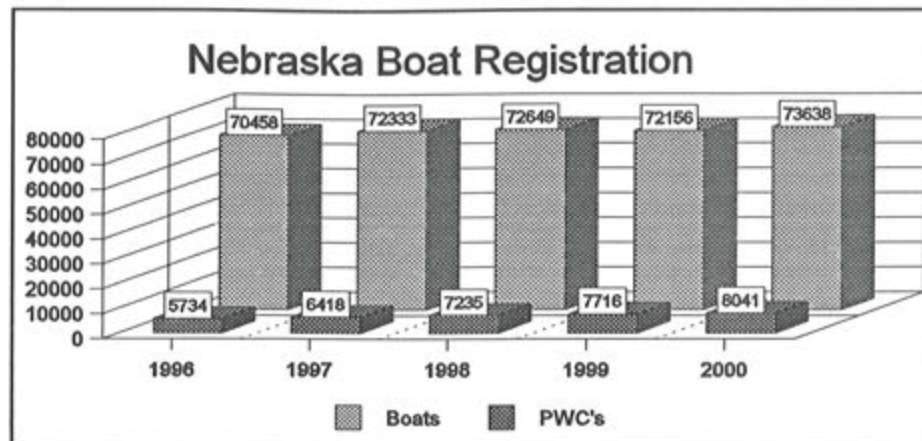
Boating Safety Education

Legislation requires mandatory boat safety education for all PWC operators under age 16. In 2000, 2,091 students were certified in boating safety, compared to 418 in 1999 and 315 in 1998, attributable largely to mandatory PWC operator training. The 226 instructors certified or re-certified in 2000 conducted 155 classes. "Burt the Boat," an educational aid, helped spread the boating safety message at schools, boat shows, boat safety classes, State Fair and other events.

Law Enforcement

All law enforcement officers can enforce boating laws, but conservation officers perform about 98% of boating enforcement across the state. The boating administrator and boat safety officer stepped up enforcement, conducting extra patrols on selected problem areas and assisted accident investigations.

Accidents were consistent with 1999, but continue to show an upward trend. There were 59 (56 in 1999) accidents involving 85 boats (79 in 1999), causing 39 personal injuries requiring medical assistance (42 in 1999), with 5 fatalities (4 in 1999). Three fatalities involved open motorboats, and two were in canoes. None of the five victims was wearing a life jacket, and might have



survived if they had. At least one PWC was involved in 31 of the 59 accidents – 52%, down slightly from 54% in 1999. The most accidents (11) were reported at Lake McConaughy, while 8 occurred on the Missouri River.

HUNTER EDUCATION

Hunter Education trained 7,721 students during 2000 – 6,811 firearm and 910 bow. Volunteer instructors conducted 486 classes – 91 bow and 395 firearm – donating 17,074 hours.

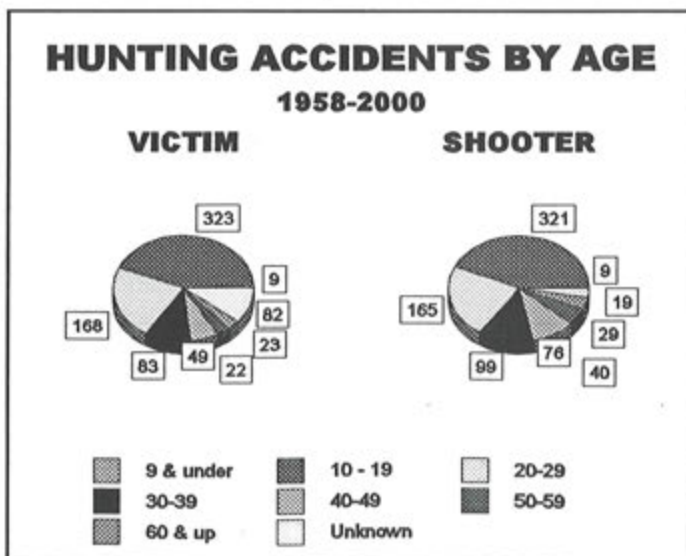
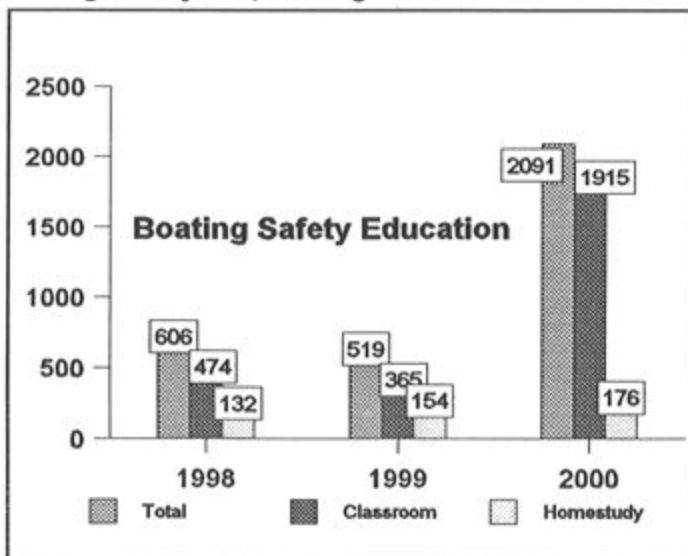
There were 12 firearm and 1 archery hunting related accidents reported, including 1 fatality, compared to 11 in 1999, with 1 fatality. Eight accidents involved shotguns; two, rifles; one, handgun; one, muzzleloader and one, archery. Injuries were self-inflicted in three incidents, and the victim was shot by someone else in 10 occurrences. As in the past, major cause of these accidents was the shooter covering the victim while swinging on game.

Training classes taught 84 instructors

in firearm and 52 in bow. Of those trained 35 were certified to teach firearm courses, and 24 as bow instructors. They were added to the list of some 1,000 active instructors. Student classes were offered every month of the year. However, most classes are offered August-December. There is also a peak in March for spring turkey hunting.

Hunter Education costs the citizens of Nebraska absolutely nothing in additional taxes. The \$322,663.94 budget was reimbursed by the return of tax dollars collected on the sale of firearms and ammunition.

The Hunter Education program also assisted with the Cornhusker State Trapshoot at Doniphan, the Nebraska Small Bore Metallic Silhouette Championship at the Pressey WMA, the youth skills camps at Gretna and Halsey and the Becoming an Outdoor Woman program. The program was also spotlighted at State Fair with the .22 caliber shooting booth and the DART system, both of which were huge hits.



Realty & Environmental Services

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

The role of Environmental Services (ES) is extensive and reaches out to federal and state agencies, natural resources districts, counties, municipalities and private individuals. Staff works closely with the Natural Heritage Section and others to coordinate many project reviews. Nebraska's Non-game and Endangered Species Conservation Act reviews closely resemble the Federal Endangered Species Act and the Federal Consultation process.

The division also serves as principal liaison with other government agencies to coordinate and plan processes associated with environmental reviews affecting fish and wildlife resources. Environmental Services staff evaluate potential impacts of project proposals by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Quality, Nebraska Department of Roads, local governmental entities, consultants and private individuals.



Whooping Crane



Least Tern



Piping Plover

3-State Cooperative Agreement

Since 1998, staff has been very active with the cooperative agreement between Nebraska, Colorado, and Wyoming and the U.S. Department of the Interior in the Platte River Endangered Species Part-

nership. The agreement addresses the needs of four threatened and endangered species that use the central Platte River—whooing crane, least tern, piping plover, and the pallid sturgeon.

Pallid Sturgeon



It will lead to the development and implementation of a recovery implementation program. During the Cooperative Agreement, signed in 1997, committees are filling in framework details. To continue after the agreement ends, a final phased program will have to be adopted by all three states.

Regarding the agreement, Environmental Services has been most active on the New Depletions Committee, Water Action Plan, Land Committee and as sponsor of a closely related program called the Cooperative Hydrology Study (COHYST).

The New Depletions program is designed to reduce new depletions or future consumptive use, while the Water Action Plan seeks to get "new" water into the river or adjust the flow of existing water to achieve target flows at times when such flows may not be available. The Land Committee is working toward a "Phase One" goal of acquiring 10,000 acres of suitable habitat for endangered species from willing participants.

Lastly, the COHYST program is a massive hydrological study designed to identify the location and magnitude of any interrelationship between groundwater, stream flows, and target flows of the Platte River.



404 Permit Review Program

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act regulates the discharge of dredged or fill material in waters of the U.S. The "404" Permit Program administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers offers the Game and Parks Commission (along

with other agencies and individuals) the opportunity to evaluate proposed developments affecting streams and wetlands. Recommendations to reduce or eliminate adverse effects on fish and wildlife habitat are sent to the Corps for their consideration in the permit process.



Although unnecessary (and expensive), a landowner wanted to place several large jetties and

hundreds of feet of riprap on this reach of the lower Platte River. These photos illustrate how a site visit and coordinated review by ES and USFWS influenced the applicant to withdraw the application.



A landowner wanted to use a pile of concrete, with rebar and garbage to armor the banks and make jetties.

Many times such convenient dumping locations for old concrete can lead to requests for unneeded 404 permits and another move toward a more controlled, unnatural river.

Lower Platte River

Staff participated in the Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance, an umbrella organization of state and local agencies that fosters development and implementation of local strategies, actions, and practices to protect and restore the vitality of the river's resources. It will continue next year.

Game and Parks also participates in the Lower Platte River Feasibility Study, which is designed to reduce flood damage, do environmental restorations and identify additional water resource plans/projects that could be used by other federal, state and local agencies. Main components include the Plattsmouth Chute Project, which the Commission may sponsor; Sand Creek Restoration

Project (Lake Wanahoo), and the Western Sarpy/Clear Creek Levee Project.

Considerable time was spent on development of an Inter-local Cooperative Agreement on the Lower Platte River. Part of the agreement will be a five-year study of the pallid sturgeon and sturgeon chub by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, funded by 15 partners. It will help identify habitat needs of the two species and determine if more development is feasible.

Mitigation Bank Review Team

Staff also serves on the wetland Mitigation Bank Review Team (MBRT), which includes representatives from the



Potential wetland bank site



MBRT site visit

Commission, U S A C E , NRCS, Federal Highway Administration, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Environmental Quality and the EPA. Mitigation banks encourage the development of larger-scale regional wetland complexes that can be managed better and maintained in perpetuity for the public benefit. MBRT meets bimonthly with site tours and inspections as needed. Environmental Services works closely with the agency's Wetland Programs Manager on this team.

Ongoing Projects

Ongoing activities involve working with NRDs, local planning departments, power companies, airport authorities, consulting firms, DNR permits to impound, divert, conduct; small watershed projects, Natural Resources District proposals, city/county (Lancaster) planning projects, power-line corridor studies, and airport facility developments are among the ongoing activities requiring Game and Parks Commission participation. Technical assistance was also provided to consulting engineering firms during preliminary design stages of

wastewater treatment facilities and construction work plans of rural electric cooperatives, along with many miscellaneous reviews.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

GIS is a powerful set of computer mapping and analysis tools. The Commission uses these technologies to create, manage, display and analyze a number of spatial databases. This division is responsible for providing Geographic Information Systems support for the agency. Tasks include: Project coordination, data acquisition, technical support, and software and hardware maintenance. GIS services and technical support are provided to the Wildlife, Fisheries, Parks, Information & Education, and Administration divisions. Mapping applications support the collection of deer and antelope survey information and setting hunting seasons. The deer units map has been especially useful for permits and wildlife staff.

Agency GIS databases are used to create maps for staff and public use. Bald eagle nest sites, wild turkey sightings, and Class A trout streams maps were plotted in the last year. Pheasant distribution maps were created utilizing route information collected by Wildlife staff and distributed on the Internet. Maps for various brochures and other agency publications were also developed. The Commission is a voting member of the Nebraska GIS Steering Committee. The division represents the agency at various inter-agency groups such as the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture and the Surface Water Framework Data Working Group.

GIS is being used to create resource management plans for the Republican River basin as part of an agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation. Data was gathered in 2000 and mapped. This data will be distributed to BOR personnel and Game and Parks staff in the coming year. Lake mapping efforts are underway. Depth contour data was gathered by Fisheries staff at Yankee Hill Lake and mapped. In coming months, more water bodies will be mapped.

Within the division, GIS is used to maintain property records, enter survey data into digital databases, and record new land acquisitions. These GIS records are linked to a land database maintained by Realty. Maps for Commission hearings are produced from GIS databases and the existing NGPC property map is reprinted to meet demand. The GIS produces a Game and Parks properties map that sold over 500 copies since its introduction.

NEW LAND PURCHASES

The division was involved in land acquisitions; appraisals; appraisal reviews; lease renewals; lease payments and cancellations; negotiations; and public hearings for the agency this past year.

- > *Appraisal Reviews*: the division did five Fish and Wildlife reviews.
- > *Appraisals*: Eight appraisals were completed during 2000.
- > *Acquisitions*: In 2000, the Commission took title to 10 tracts of land that totaled 4,014.57 acres.

2000 LAND ACQUISITIONS			
Area Name	County	Designation	Acres
Chadron	Dawes	Park	2.60
Ponca	Dixon	Park	582.00
Indian Cave	Nemaha	Park	347.27
TOTAL PARK LAND			931.87
Whitefront	Clay	WMA	80
Myrtle E. Hall	Custer	WMA	600
	Loup		1,360
Bordeaux	Dawes	WMA	620
DeFair Lake	Grant	WMA	125.2
Flatsedge	Polk	WMA	79.5
Fred Thomas	Rock	WMA	218
TOTAL WMA LAND			3,082.7
TOTAL ALL LAND			4,014.57

STATE PARKS

Parks is responsible for administration and operation of Nebraska's system of state park areas. Responsibilities involve visitor contacts, day-to-day park housekeeping chores, planning and programming improvements, providing necessary resource protection, and enhancement measures to assure quality outdoor recreation experiences for park-goers now and in the future.

The 86 state park areas located across Nebraska fall into four categories and offer a variety of outdoor recreation, with opportunities varying from area to area. Some areas have modern campgrounds, cabins, swimming pools and trail rides, while at others visitors may enjoy the cultural interpretation of a historic site or structure. Still other opportunities include boating and fishing at Nebraska's many lakes, primitive camping in the Pine Ridge country and backpacking along the Missouri River.

STATE PARKS are public use areas of statewide significance with scenic, scientific and/or historical values and large enough to allow adequate development without infringing upon the primary values.

RECREATION AREAS possess resource values primarily associated with active outdoor recreation pursuits, day-use activities and camping. All the state's major water-oriented areas come under this classification.

HISTORICAL PARKS are sites of notable historical significance to the State of Nebraska.

RECREATION TRAILS are linear corridors of statewide or regional significance, valuable for non-motorized recreational use. They may be equipped with appropriate amenities and support facilities.

Personnel help with maintaining 21 wildlife management areas, walleye egg harvesting, check stations, tours, sports shows and law enforcement.

Park Areas By Class & Area				
Areas	No. of Areas	Water or Marsh	Land Acres	Total Acres
State Parks	8	101	30,001	30,102
Rec. Areas	66	66,863	33,769	100,632
Historical Parks	11	0	2,387	2,387
Recreation Trails	1	0	4,121	4,121
TOTALS	86	66,964	70,891	137,855

PARK PLANNING

Park planning strives to solve specific park design problems through preparation of graphic designs, descriptive narratives and preliminary cost estimates for park developments.

Digital maps usable for handouts, web maps and planning were completed for four areas - Bridgeport, Calamus, Sherman and Walgren Lake SRAs. Production of these maps is made possible by aerial photos created from the Digital Ortho Photo Quads provided online by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources.

Planning was done for Box Butte, Merritt, Mormon Island and Sherman SRAs and E.T. Mahoney and Ponca state parks.

SIGN SHOP

Routed and/or silk-screened signs were made for entrance, regulatory and directional use on a number areas.

These included a program for campground, beach and bay access areas at Lake McConaughy; new entrance signs at Chadron, Ak-Sar-Ben Aquarium, Louisville SRA, Two Rivers SRA, Wildcat Hills SRA/Nature Center and Memphis Lake SRA.

Signs were created for the building renovations at the Commission's area at the State Fair. The main entrance sign at Indian Cave State Park was vandalized twice during the year. A new sign with cutout letter and reflective logo will be relocated closer to the park headquarters.

SNOWMOBILE TRAIL FUND

In 1981, Snowmobile Land Leasing program was established, using the Nebraska Snowmobile Trail Cash Fund to provide lands for public snowmobiling to supplement established trails on state recreation areas.

The land-leasing program is administered in cooperation with the Nebraska State Snowmobile Association (NSSA). Affiliated clubs initiate contact with landowners for proposed land sites, and application for leases are then reviewed by the Snowmobile Advisory Board. The board presents its recommendations to the Commission for funding or rejection.

Private lands are leased from December 1-April 30. Current rates are a maximum of \$2 per acre or \$100 per corridor mile of trail 100 feet in width. No acres of private land were leased for the 2000-01 season.

HORTICULTURE & LANDSCAPE PROGRAM

The agency's horticulture program's mission is "to promote planting and proper care of trees, shrubs and wildflowers in landscapes of the State Park System."

Staff made much progress with tree-trimming and related arboriculture work at Fort Kearny and Arbor Lodge SHPs; Pawnee, Johnson Lake, Medicine Creek, Two River, Lake McConaughy, Fremont, Branched Oak, Alexandria, Sherman, Mormon Island, North Loup and Lewis & Clark SRAs.

The aerial lift unit was sent to a number of park areas and accomplished 1,200 hours tree trimming and repair work. A number of landscape projects were undertaken at various park areas.

Landscaping was completed at one new cabin and around the new flagpole at Mahoney State Park. In addition there, 125 shade trees were planted next to the golf complex. Twelve acres of fescue turf were seeded on park

wildlife land to accommodate 10,000 Boy Scouts attending the Mid-America Jamboree at the park. Annual renovation and maintenance of the Geiger Waterway continued.

Staff planned and installed renovation landscapes at five cabins at Platte River SP and gave the Backyard Habitat exhibit at the State Fair a facelift, installing a new pond and complementing landscape. A final draft plan for the landscape at the new visitor center at Lake McConaughy was completed.

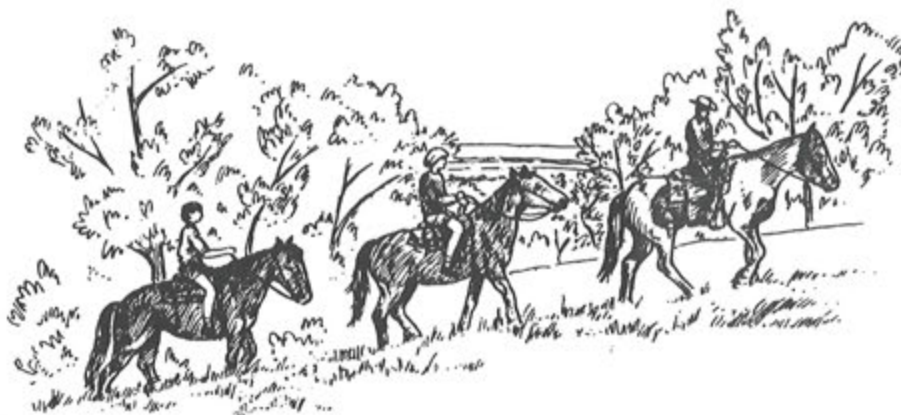
The final phase of a two-year grant from the American Forest Association provided aerial seeding of 600 lbs. of ponderosa pine on 600 acres of the 1989 burn at Fort Robinson. If successful, the project will improve only a small area, but can help determine if future reforestation seeding efforts are feasible. Final draft of a forest fire protection plan for Chadron State Park was prepared.

Many trees and shrubs were produced at parks nurseries and for agency areas, including 1,300 shade trees grown in root control bags; 1,200 landscape grade shrubs, and 400 shade tree seedlings grown in containers.

STATE RECREATION TRAILS

Recreational trails are linear corridors established to provide recreational opportunities for hiking, biking, horseback riding and cross country skiing.

At present, Nebraska has only one state recreational trail, the Cowboy Recreation and Nature Trail. When completed this trail will be the nation's



longest rails-to-trails conversion, extending 321 miles covering over 3,800 acres from Norfolk to Chadron.

The Cowboy Trail was a gift to the State of Nebraska under provisions of Federal Railbanking Statutes, which allows for former railroad corridors to be held in trust as future transportation corridors. In the interim, these corridors are designed by law for use as recreational corridors.

PERSONNEL

Park's administration, horticulture, landscape and the sign shop have a staff of 21 permanent and 9 seasonal employees. The 86 park areas are maintained by a permanent staff of 136 people. Distribution of these positions is shown in the table below.

There are 53 park and recreation areas staffed by resident personnel with 116 permanent field positions. Staff from these areas also maintain 8 satellite areas. The remaining 20 field positions are assigned to other recreation areas and park maintenance crews to maintain the 24 unmanned

areas and one recreation trail. Some 785 temporary seasonal employees assist the permanent parks' staff during the main recreation season.

In addition, several areas use volunteer services of local groups, military units and Campground Hosts. Green Thumb were used at one area. Lewis & Clark benefitted from the efforts of an inmate labor crew from a federal minimum security installation.

HAPPENINGS

- ✓ Many park areas participated in the "Tackle Loaner" program sponsored by Urban Fishing.
- ✓ Road work on phase 2 of the South Shore Campground at Branched Oak was completed, and construction begun on the shower building. 20 electrical hookups were added at Middle Oak Creek camping area, and the shoreline stabilization and jetty were completed.
- ✓ The campground at Buffalo Bill SRA was dedicated on June 3.
- ✓ At Calamus SRA, electric hookups were added at Nunda Shoals; bank stabilization completed at Nunda Shoals and Little York Point, and a 575-ft. breakwater was installed at Buckshot Bay.
- ✓ 2.6 acres at the entrance of Chadron State Park, purchased by the NGPC Foundation, were donated to the Commission. Debris was removed and area landscaped.
- ✓ Champion Mill pond was dredged.
- ✓ Historic purebred Texas longhorns

PARK PERSONNEL BY REGION

REGION	# OF AREAS	MANNED AREAS	OTHER AREAS	PERMANENT EMPLOYEES	TEMPORARY POSITIONS
Northwest Region	18	7	11	21	198
Central Region	46	23	23	42	150
Eastern Region	21	15	6	73	437
Trails	1		1		
TOTAL	86	45	41	136	785

were transferred to the agency by the US Fish & Wildlife Service. The cattle were trailed 180 miles from Valentine to Fort Robinson.

- ✓ Visitor center/office completed at Lake McConaughy SRA.
- ✓ Five cabins opened to public at Lewis & Clark SRA. Building began on four more cabins.
- ✓ Lightning ignited grass fires at Merritt SRA, burning 2,800 acres, including 80 acres of trees, plus thousands of surrounding acres.
- ✓ Modern campground and shop area at Pawnee SRA were asphalted.
- ✓ Lake renovation at Summit SRA required lowering water level 15 feet below conservation pool.
- ✓ An additional 90 feet of boat ramp were poured, when irrigation demand lowered Swanson Reservoir to within 1 foot of dead pool.
- ✓ Severe hail damaged buildings at Victoria Springs SRA, requiring re-roofing 24 structures and siding some of them.
- ✓ 700-ft. rock pier was completed in beach area at Willow Creek SRA.
- ✓ Wagon Train Lake is refilling after major renovation project. Boat ramp and handicap pier installed.

VISITATIONS

Accurate counts of park visitors are difficult to achieve. Most areas have multiple accesses and over one-third of the park and recreation areas are not staffed. The 53 reporting areas contribute most of the visitor counts. Thirty-two areas are credited with conservative lump sum visitor estimates. One area was closed to public access for development during this reporting period. Annual lodging table is on p 28, and table on p. 29 shows visitation by area.

INCOME

Camping, lodging, swimming and trail rides are typical activities for which fees are charged. Other park

Fee Campgrounds	Registrations	Participants	Camping Days	Ave. Part. Registration	Ave. Days Participant
Alexandria SRA	2,146	2,684	9,548	1.25	3.56
Arnold SRA	150	356	907	2.37	2.55
Atkinson SRA	204	563	1,321	2.76	2.35
Bluestem SRA	1,314	4,360	12,640	3.32	2.90
Box Butte SRA	854	2,633	5,343	3.08	2.03
Branched Oak SRA	11,283	41,710	125,277	3.70	3.00
Bridgeport SRA	979	2,806	7,168	2.87	2.55
Buffalo Bill SRA	115	387	1,064	3.37	2.75
Calamus SRA	330	992	2,355	3.01	2.37
Chadron SP	6,160	21,316	56,061	3.46	2.63
Champion Lake	2,816	7,546	18,479	2.68	2.45
Cheyenne SRA	35	131	287	3.74	2.19
Conestoga SRA	163	403	846	2.47	2.10
Cottonwood Lake	1,531	5,109	14,418	3.34	2.82
Crystal Lake SRA	60	218	436	3.63	2.00
Dead Timber SRA	382	988	2,359	2.59	2.39
E. T. Mahoney SP	453	1,419	3,371	3.13	2.38
Enders SRA	8,532	25,723	96,822	3.01	3.76
Fort Kearny SRA	1,502	4,831	15,679	3.22	3.25
Fort Robinson SP	4,890	13,314	32,797	2.72	2.46
Fremont SRA	5,688	9,777	19,552	1.72	2.00
Gallagher Canyon	8,073	29,196	89,435	3.62	3.06
Indian Cave SP	289	975	3,512	3.37	3.60
Johnson Lake SRA	6,589	18,761	50,586	2.85	2.70
Keller Park SRA	4,235	12,112	43,248	2.86	3.57
Lake Mac (prim)	597	1,865	4,590	3.12	2.46
Lake Mac SRA	18,392	59,838	185,790	3.25	3.10
Lake Maloney SRA	4,280	7,032	14,116	1.64	2.01
Lake Minatare SRA	2,118	7,194	23,144	3.40	3.22
Lake Ogallala SRA	4,696	13,709	24,989	2.92	1.82
Lewis & Clark SRA	4,630	12,860	50,010	2.78	3.89
Long Pine SRA	391	1,325	3,378	3.39	2.55
Louisville SRA	8,843	27,470	60,980	3.11	2.22
Medicine Creek	2,300	4,691	10,832	2.04	2.31
Memphis SRA	761	2,116	5,237	2.78	2.47
Merritt SRA	4,069	12,821	38,186	3.15	2.98
Mormon Island SRA	3,224	10,633	23,140	3.30	2.18
Niobrara SP	1,617	4,618	12,175	2.86	2.64
Olive Creek SRA	15	29	59	1.93	2.03
Oliver Reservoir	1,355	3,497	9,528	2.58	2.72
Pawnee SRA	4,244	13,101	38,373	3.09	2.93
Pelican Point SRA	81	226	476	2.79	2.11
Pibel Lake SRA	80	269	598	3.36	2.22
Ponca SP	2,381	7,971	21,883	3.35	2.75
Red Willow SRA	1,651	7,431	14,862	4.50	2.00
Rock Creek Lake	498	950	2,571	1.91	2.71
Rock Creek Station	1,445	2,320	6,085	1.61	2.62
Rockford Lake SRA	463	1,432	3,667	3.09	2.56
Sherman SRA	1,169	3,907	9,441	3.34	2.42
Smith Falls SP	595	2,504	10,039	4.21	4.01
Stagecoach SRA	262	779	1,745	2.97	2.24
Summit SRA	672	2,241	5,373	3.33	2.40
Sutherland SRA	767	1,224	2,461	1.60	2.01
Swanson SRA	862	2,373	4,746	2.75	2.00
Two Rivers SRA	4,915	22,180	50,413	4.51	2.27
Verdon Lake SRA	31	84	213	2.71	2.54
Victoria Springs	728	2,020	5,206	2.77	2.58
Wagon Train SRA	284	797	1,971	2.81	2.47
Walgren Lake SRA	132	343	762	2.60	2.22
War Axe SRA	41	100	209	2.44	2.09
Wildcat Hills SRA	64	176	363	2.75	2.06
Willow Creek SRA	2,702	10,073	26,403	3.73	2.62
Windmill SRA	2,317	6,543	15,426	2.82	2.36
TOTAL	152,445	467,052	1,302,951	3.06	2.79

income is derived from restaurant and concession sales, leases for cabin sites, conservation practices, shelter rentals and private concession leases.

Monies generated from these sources are returned to the Park Cash Fund to help support park programs. Park areas also sell hunting and fishing permits, habitat stamps, aquatic habitat stamps, publications and other items purchased for resale. Income from these activities are deposited to their respective funds. Certain goods, services and facilities are subject to applicable sales tax, state and county lodging taxes. Park cash income is also received through Lincoln, Omaha and district offices, Ak-Sar-Ben Aquarium and private permit agents.

Park Cash income from all sources totaled \$13,753,489.17 less liability accounts and adjustments of \$56,593.22 for a total of \$13,696,895.95. The listing below shows the income producing categories and the following pages show area income generated by activity and the total dollars generated for all activities at that area.

- ✓ **Resale** -- Souvenirs, fish food, buffalo, advertising, park publications, grocery store, snacks, gas and oil
- ✓ **Food** -- Restaurants, cookouts
- ✓ **Catering** -- Catering for various functions



- ✓ **Camping** -- Campground sites, camping coupons, electric hookups
- ✓ **Lodging** -- Lodge, cabins, group facilities, employee rent, advanced deposits, refunds, stall rental, tepees, picnic shelters
- ✓ **Marina Lease** -- Wet slips, docks, buoys
- ✓ **Concessions** -- Private concession agreements at 2% of gross sales



- ✓ **Swimming Pools** -- admissions, annual passes
- ✓ **Boats & Recreational Equipment** -- Paddle boats, golf, archery, hayrack, buggy, Conestoga, stagecoach, bicycles
- ✓ **Trail Rides** -- Horseback trail rides
- ✓ **Land Lease** -- Private cabins, club sites, crop and pasture, rights-of-way, ice fishing shelters, lease to other agencies and other land leases
- ✓ **Vending** -- Vending machines, pay phones, pay showers, laundromat



- ✓ **Admissions** -- Museums, Arbor Lodge, Kountze Theater, entertainment
- ✓ **Fees & Adjustments** -- Cash gifts, liquidated damages, refunds, surplus, federal / state reimbursements

- ✓ **Miscellaneous** -- Collection fees, tips, personal phone, linens, towels, bedding, tablecloths
- ✓ **Park Permits** -- All annual, duplicate and daily permits
- ✓ **Game Fund** -- All game permits, stamps, trout tags, game resale, *NEBRASKAland* magazine
- ✓ **Habitat Fund** -- Habitat stamps, habitat resale
- ✓ **Aquatic Fund** -- Aquatic Habitat stamps, federal reimbursements, gifts, interest
- ✓ **Other Funds** -- Includes income and refunds for Cowboy Trail, Snowmobile, NORDA, Trail Development Assistance Fund, Recreational Trail Fund, Non-Game and Endangered Species and federal grants.



CABINS	Registrations	Participants	Cabin Days	Ave. Part. Per Regis.	Ave. Days Per Part.
Chadron SP	876	3,308	11,894	3.78	3.60
E T Mahoney (Cabins)	5,221	32,644	102,480	6.25	3.14
E T Mahoney (Lodge)	4,836	23,718	63,019	4.90	2.66
Fort Rob (Cabins)	2,530	14,615	33,556	5.78	2.30
Fort Rob (Lodge)	1,744	2,903	6,719	1.66	2.31
Lewis & Clark SRA	251	1,279	4,121	5.10	3.22
Niobrara SP	1,203	5,433	18,595	4.52	3.42
Platte River SP	3,111	14,386	51,538	4.62	3.58
Ponca SP	722	2,782	9,155	3.85	3.29
Two Rivers SRA	384	1,777	5,221	4.63	2.94
Victoria Springs SRA	101	349	1,087	3.46	3.11
TOTALS	20,979	103,194	307,385	4.92	2.98

VISITATION 2000	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
ARBOR LODGE SHP	500	500	500	15,000	20,000	21,000	22,000	22,000	30,000	60,000	2,000	1,000	194,500
ASHFALL SHP	396	472	731	1,264	3,370	4,499	4,824	3,963	2,561	1,368	736	416	24,600
ASH HOLLOW SHP	1,000	1,000	1,350	2,700	3,500	7,700	8,500	7,000	1,600	1,700	1,350	1,000	38,400
BLUESTEM SRA	926	1,005	1,475	3,768	6,698	9,685	10,645	12,137	13,448	6,595	3,470	985	70,837
BOWRING RANCH SHP	0	0	10	251	812	3,455	2,475	2,016	655	172	84	665	10,595
BOX BUTTE SRA	1,127	1,344	2,079	3,598	9,590	12,803	13,727	11,277	7,287	3,892	2,093	1,183	70,000
BRANCHED OAK SRA	20,157	21,257	33,502	69,878	135,688	171,973	159,999	144,861	87,136	34,160	21,763	16,866	917,240
BRIDGEPORT SRA	250	500	610	790	3,980	5,430	6,690	7,950	4,190	1,490	640	565	33,085
BUFFALO BILL SHP	0	0	85	473	2,843	5,089	6,303	4,870	2,198	635	30	1,300	23,826
CALAMUS SRA	2,900	2,905	875	4,417	51,548	78,194	84,385	65,888	25,228	3,626	6,412	3,000	329,378
CHADRON SP	3,000	3,000	3,000	9,603	19,155	58,155	81,075	55,158	33,039	9,000	11,100	2,700	287,985
CHAMPION MILL SHP	1,085	914	760	1,680	1,960	2,100	2,060	2,430	850	125	600	665	15,229
CONESTOGA SRA	2,013	2,709	5,823	7,614	16,977	14,043	14,328	11,286	9,045	9,360	2,556	3,318	99,072
DEAD TIMBER SRA	500	1,000	1,000	2,000	6,000	5,000	2,000	2,500	2,000	1,500	500	300	24,300
ENDERS SRA	1,627	1,400	1,522	1,785	7,085	9,765	9,030	4,675	1,725	1,050	1,263	1,680	42,607
EUGENE T. MAHONEY SP	56,875	46,200	48,125	66,500	98,000	113,750	140,000	120,050	101,500	92,750	49,000	50,750	983,500
FORT ATKINSON SHP	290	450	825	1,845	4,450	6,050	6,250	6,820	7,820	7,800	920	150	43,670
FORT HARTSUFF SHP	0	100	500	750	2,800	5,500	5,000	4,000	3,750	950	100	12	23,462
FORT KEARNY SHP	30	500	7,000	3,000	8,200	12,375	15,950	10,400	2,500	500	425	15	60,895
FORT KEARNY SRA	150	1,600	5,100	6,000	12,550	25,450	15,400	33,700	13,800	2,000	250	60	116,060
FORT ROBINSON SP	1,157	1,508	1,803	13,753	33,798	49,394	58,447	49,387	31,573	38,372	58,312	13,304	350,808
FREMONT SRA	9,450	14,300	35,500	36,450	112,500	135,500	143,400	131,060	89,350	60,250	20,100	5,200	793,060
INDIAN CAVE SP	1,855	2,595	6,419	17,423	27,240	23,360	19,985	19,295	30,885	35,000	10,800	300	195,157
JOHNSON LAKE SRA	1,100	1,215	1,474	4,329	37,556	60,558	59,994	49,271	17,379	8,045	500	500	241,921
LAKE MALONEY SRA	1,000	1,200	3,600	3,000	36,000	105,000	24,000	15,000	5,400	3,150	400	0	197,750
LAKE McCONAUGHY SRA	7,117	14,624	13,876	28,661	83,355	93,816	169,343	146,555	93,192	11,808	7,861	4,296	674,504
LAKE MINATARE SRA	196	1,960	2,853	2,340	6,868	9,500	21,000	12,000	6,500	0	0	50	63,267
LEWIS & CLARK SRA	1,060	1,976	9,892	14,966	35,403	56,375	39,316	27,627	25,396	13,927	6,443	5,238	237,619
LOUISVILLE SRA	1,500	1,500	3,000	7,500	45,000	72,000	90,000	90,000	33,000	31,500	3,000	900	378,900
MEDICINE CREEK SRA	2,800	2,538	2,712	5,547	10,647	10,024	1,683	12,250	10,500	3,798	4,200	3,255	69,954
MERRITT SRA	2,200	1,500	1,300	1,750	18,750	21,500	35,000	20,400	20,500	1,685	4,000	2,000	130,585
MORMON ISLAND SRA	5,000	6,000	6,500	7,000	35,000	60,000	65,000	45,000	25,000	10,000	5,000	1,000	270,500
NIOBRARA SP	3,150	6,750	7,320	17,762	18,655	27,104	26,239	21,070	18,740	9,625	3,841	2,912	163,168
OLIVE CREEK SRA	96	147	234	329	467	489	516	493	268	324	412	385	4,160
OLIVER RES SRA	375	675	680	840	5,495	6,390	7,495	8,600	4,426	1,340	680	525	37,521
PAWNEE SRA	2,625	4,596	15,342	19,134	73,962	77,760	77,037	55,941	27,780	4,611	2,436	2,559	363,783
PLATTE RIVER SP	4,278	6,062	10,185	18,430	30,070	88,270	108,688	79,055	38,130	32,495	19,530	10,912	446,105
PONCA SP	600	2,400	4,000	9,000	57,000	60,000	80,000	60,000	24,000	20,000	3,000	1,800	321,800
RED WILLOW SRA	210	2,275	1,628	5,600	7,788	4,920	19,425	18,800	21,000	600	1,400	0	83,646
ROCK CREEK STATION	875	490	2,625	3,500	6,510	7,000	7,000	5,250	7,000	5,425	1,750	525	47,950
SCHRAMM SRA	1,175	1,402	2,168	3,752	10,001	13,352	14,315	11,760	7,599	4,059	2,183	1,234	73,000
SHERMAN SRA	1,400	1,225	1,225	1,225	42,000	10,500	6,318	1,400	1,505	1,225	1,050	875	69,948
SMITH FALLS SP	20	50	550	2,189	3,829	14,000	25,514	14,553	3,592	1,821	50	20	66,188
STAGECOACH SRA	687	764	826	1,183	2,921	4,537	4,775	5,109	4,970	3,193	1,726	1,189	31,880
SUMMIT SRA	1,000	1,000	2,000	4,000	18,000	20,000	18,000	3,000	1,500	1,000	500	300	70,300
SUTHERLAND SRA	600	750	1,500	1,200	9,000	6,000	1,200	700	1,050	900	300	0	23,200
SWANSON SRA	750	1,350	900	1,400	4,800	8,100	9,600	6,600	6,000	1,350	960	690	42,500
TWO RIVERS SRA	1,000	2,000	14,200	38,400	78,524	60,200	68,012	40,724	52,548	23,456	5,000	3,000	387,064
VICTORIA SPRINGS SRA	75	200	150	250	2,000	5,000	10,500	7,000	2,000	300	200	75	27,750
WAGON TRAIN SRA	873	927	838	984	1,532	1,486	1,659	1,896	1,918	1,431	987	558	15,089
WILDCAT HILLS SRA	500	700	590	1,200	4,930	5,720	6,420	7,120	3,500	2,500	520	460	34,160
WILLOW CREEK SRA	3,500	6,300	9,450	15,750	31,850	38,500	35,000	28,000	24,500	8,000	5,950	2,625	209,425
WINDMILL SRA	800	1,000	1,000	1,350	6,250	8,400	9,000	8,000	6,500	2,100	1,200	900	46,500
32 UNSTAFFED AREAS	5,152	6,144	9,504	16,448	43,840	58,528	62,752	51,552	33,312	17,792	9,568	5,408	320,000
TOTALS	157,002	184,979	290,716	509,561	1,356,747	1,795,299	1,937,274	1,587,449	1,030,845	599,755	289,151	159,625	9,898,403

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

New capital construction authority by program for FY 00/01 for 549 and 617 includes:

PROGRAM	AREA	PARK CASH	NORDA	GENERAL	COWBOY TRAIL
900	Park Areas - General	\$ 140,625	\$ 100,000		
901	Deferred Maintenance		200,000		
902	Trail Development			110,000	
960	Land Acquisition	300,000			
967	Chadron State Park		100,000		
967	Eugene T. Mahoney SP		20,000		
967	Fort Robinson SP	53,000			
967	Platte River SP		50,000		
967	Ponca SP		300,000		
967	Smith Falls SP	50,000	5,000		
968	Fort Kearny SHP	20,000			
968	Fort Atkinson SHP		8,500		
969	Branched Oak SRA		200,000		
969	Enders SRA		5,000		
969	Fort Kearny SRA		70,000		
969	Johnson Lake SRA	100,000	20,000		
969	Lake McConaughy SRA		158,000		
969	Lewis & Clark SRA	50,000			
969	Louisville SRA	200,000	80,000		
969	Medicine Creek SRA		20,000		
972	Administrative Facilities	60,750			
972	Emergency Facility Repair		100,000		
972	Emergency Repairs Cowboy Trail				50,000
TOTAL		\$974,375	\$143,6500	\$110,000	\$50,000

309 PROJECTS

In addition to capital projects, many park structure renovations are accomplished through the Building Renewal Program. Areas and authorized Renewal Funds (309 Projects) follow:

AREA	AUTHORITY
Buffalo Bill SHP	\$ 22,500
Chadron SP	1,000
Enders SRA	7,600
Fort Robinson SP	54,969
Johnson Lake SRA	8,000
Red Willow SRA	1,000
Swanson SRA	13,000
TOTAL	\$ 108,069

1999-2000 EXPENDITURES

Type	Program 549	Program 550	Program 617
Personal Serv. Permanent	\$ 3,461,184	\$118,496	\$ 1,200,974
Personal Serv. Temporary	3,331,875	29,684	609,842
Overtime & Other wages	92,118	0	4,821
Personal Serv. Benefits	1,364,106	30,269	400,920
Operating Exp. & Supplies	5,236,664	162,680	1,065,801
Travel	17,893	5,924	40,785
Equipment	656,638	92,094	678,290
Credit Cards	715	0	148
Total Disbursements	\$ 14,161,193	\$ 439,147	\$ 4,001,581

OPERATIONS/MAINTENANCE

State parks, recreation areas and recreation trails are administered under three separate programs. Program 549 provides funding for administration, operation and maintenance of Parks, Historical Parks, Recreation areas offering improved facilities and resident management and maintenance personnel. Program 550 provides funding for Recreational Trails. Program 617-09 funds park crews to maintain the system's lesser developed, unmanned areas and the Operations Division which plays a supporting role to all park crews when maintenance and construction projects exceed their capabilities. The Operations Division also receives funding through the Game Fund. See tables at right.

1999-2000 Budget Authority	Program 549	Program 550	Program 617
General Fund Appropriation	\$ 4,804,187	\$ 415,068	\$ 1,913,061
Cash Fund Appropriation	9,531,450	0	1,957,965
Total	\$ 14,335,637	\$ 415,068	\$ 3,871,026

2000-01 Budget Authority	Program 549	Program 550	Program 617
General Fund Appropriation	\$ 5,007,138	429,950	\$ 2,004,692
Cash Fund Appropriation	9,918,950	0	2,065,061
Total	\$14,926,088	\$ 429,950	\$ 4,069,753

FY 1999-2000 INCOME AND EXPENDITURES

Area	Expenses	Income From Area	Profit & Loss	Capital	Income Grants
Chadron SP	311,621	303,616	(8,005)	26,580	
Fort Robinson SP	1,552,417	1,245,629	(306,788)	108,146	
Indian Cave SP	339,397	193,232	(146,165)	1,824	
E. T. Mahoney SP	4,338,857	5,458,679	1,119,822	963	
Niobrara SP	415,525	328,015	(87,510)	39,289	
Platte River SP	894,901	727,849	(167,052)		
Ponca SP	329,735	232,091	(97,645)	30,409	
Smith Falls SP	196,759	64,792	(131,967)	67,621	
Arbor Lodge SHP	235,385	92,348	(143,037)	12,976	
Ashfall SHP*	2,006	15,532	13,526		
Ash Hollow SHP	118,998	11,523	(107,475)		
Bowring SHP	110,756	4,991	(105,765)		
Buffalo Bill Ranch SHP	218,687	41,436	(177,251)		
Champion Mill SHP	39,818	2,301	(37,517)		
Fort Atkinson SHP	135,023	11,018	(124,005)		268
Fort Hartsuff SHP	151,426	9,793	(141,633)		
Fort Kearny SHP	228,813	142,295	(86,518)	2,285	
Rock Creek Station SHP	217,435	42,371	(175,064)		
Calamus SRA	233,122	101,573	(131,549)	137,281	202,000
Dead Timber SRA	77,001	6,062	(70,939)	5,000	
Enders SRA	129,514	28,319	(101,195)	172,108	
Fremont SRA	302,110	295,789	(6,321)		
Johnson Lake SRA	207,223	78,251	(128,972)		
Lake McConaughy SRA	588,545	390,402	(198,143)	259,773	
Lake Minatare SRA	171,724	73,245	(98,479)	124,140	
Lewis & Clark SRA	415,361	299,551	(115,810)	497,514	
Louisville SRA	190,959	235,341	44,382	56,900	
Medicine Creek SRA	157,626	46,191	(111,435)	70,929	
Mormon Island SRA	121,740	67,324	(54,416)	11,250	
Red Willow SRA	88,318	28,502	(59,816)	558	
Schramm Park SRA	30,498		(30,498)	405	
Sherman SRA	218,517	77,011	(141,507)	4,069	
Southwest Res.-- Gen.	42,320	3,338	(38,982)		
Summit SRA	78,257	15,968	(62,289)	41,228	
Swanson SRA	117,672	19,722	(97,950)	86,205	
Two Rivers SRA	316,730	305,743	(10,986)	6,615	
Victoria Springs SRA	83,098	38,126	(44,972)		
Wildcat Hills Nature Center	61,847	27,447	(34,400)		
Willow Creek SRA	119,334	48,641	(70,693)	50,000	
Windmill SRA	141,706	52,498	(89,207)		
Cowboy Trail					
Total for Areas	\$13,730,781	\$11,166,555	(\$2,564,226)	\$1,814,068	\$202,268

The table on the left summarizes park income and expenses for fiscal year 1999-2000. It includes all income deposited by area. Park cash income was also generated through Lincoln office, district offices, Ak-Sar-Ben Aquarium, Omaha office, maintenance districts and all permit agents.

Column 1 -- Only area name is listed, but includes satellites managed by that area, i.e. Indian Cave, Brownville & Verdon;

Column 2 -- Expenses include salaries, benefits, supplies, equipment, mileage, capital expenses;

Column 3 -- Income produced on that area(s) from all sources, i.e. lodging, camping, park entry permits, docks, and hunt & fish licenses, etc.;

Column 4 -- Income less expenditures

Column 5 -- Includes all Capital expenditures.

Permits reported through agent for calendar year 2000.

NOTE

This report includes all income deposited by areas. Park cash income was also generated through Lincoln office, district offices, Ak-Sar-Ben Aquarium, maintenance areas and all permit agents.

2000 Income Summary	Resale Income	Food Service	Catering	Camping	Lodging & Facilities	Marina Lease	Concession	Swimming Pool	Trail Rides	Boats, Golf Rec. Equip.	Land Lease	Vending Machines	Admis- sions
Alexandria SRA				11,333			526						
Arbor Lodge SHP	8,430				4,601		63					213	48,486
Arnold SRA				1,043									
Ash Hollow SHP	5,759												
Atkinson SRA				1,318									
Bluestem SRA				6,801									
Bowman Lake SRA				235									
Bowring Ranch SHP	1,910												
Box Butte SRA				6,185									
Branched Oak SRA				171,055			9,109				540	3,413	
Bridgeport SRA				3,711									
Brownville SRA				893									
Buffalo Bill SHP	10,315						771		7,929	83		133	
Buffalo Bill SRA				2,651									
Calamus SRA				83,422									
Chadron SP	13,325	3,353		39,064	131,401		55	14,922	16,314	11,352		802	
Champion Lake SRA				154									
Champion Mill SHP	234						15						
Cheyenne SRA				682									
Conestoga SRA				16,761									
Cottonwood Lake SRA				431									
Cowboy Trail													
Crystal Lake SRA				2,528									
Dead Timber SRA				3,966									
Ender SRA				13,879							8,870	2,026	
E. T. Mahoney SP	570,991	1,199,649	337,339	211,517	1,846,460		7,731	157,126	98,779	199,854	149	26,522	228,106
Ft. Atkinson SHP	3,547												
Ft. Hartsuff SHP	3,837												
Ft. Kearny SHP	16,316				25								
Ft. Kearny SRA				67,671	50								
Ft. Robinson SP	121,866	196,105	83,123	54,885	504,606		114	15,853	61,129	51,714		1,049	
Fremont SRA				166,850			1,289					7,156	
Gallagher Canyon SRA				1,643									
Indian Cave SP	10,548			105,150	300		1,855		14,438	7,757		2,872	
Johnson Lake SRA				65,404									
Keller Park SRA				5,996							65		
Lake Maloney SRA				20,366								1,555	
Lake McConaughy SRA				219,130		6,000	28,755				225	15,376	
LAKE Minatare SRA	110			24,291	50	240					15,702	210	
Lewin & Clark SRA	117,279			89,488	55,694	46,474	1,137			409		8,717	
Lincoln Maint.													
Long Pine SRA				2,489									
Louisville SRA				154,100			1,357					4,563	
Medicine Creek SRA				28,183		891	2,159				5,083	3	
Memphis SRA				4,273									
Merritt SRA				23,727								5,335	
Mormon Island SRA				41,504								40	
Niobrara SP	21,068	223		23,499	199,096		4,088	9,108	15,419	12,358	1,559	2,005	
North Platte Maint.													
Olive Creek SRA				49									
Oliver SRA				7,644									
Pawnee SRA				69,333			471						
Pelican Point SRA				481									
Pibel Lake SRA				389									
Pioneer SRA											35		
Platte River SP	47,600	84,771	21,781		384,961			23,352	53,289	17,740		16	
Ponca SP	18,994	358		41,129	82,367			14,754	25,038	2,845			
Red Willow SRA				15,919		1,509	1,660				3,838	30	
Riverview Marina SRA				4,765									
Rock Creek Station SHP	2,159	101		2,485	75								
Rock Creek Station SRA				13,479									
Rockford Lake SRA				2,421									
Sherman SRA				6,364			5,978				50,367	876	
Smith Falls SP	1,636			22,226	4,587		11,148					5,171	
Stagecoach SRA				1,919									
Summit SRA				3,891									
Sutherland SRA				2,163									
Southwest Gen.													
Swanson SRA				6,885			1,485				4,025	850	
Two Rivers SRA	2,084			70,260	35,344		88			1,099			
Union Pacific SRA				254									
Verdon Lake SRA				147									
Victoria Springs SRA	184			10,372	10,950					3,128			
Wagon Train SRA				2,714									
Walgren Lake SRA				3									
War Axe SRA				235									
Wildcat Hills Maint.													
Wildcat Hills SRA	4,004			242	225					510		135	
Willow Creek SRA				44,658							613	1,501	
Windmill SRA				32,718								366	
Trails Gen.													
PARK TOTAL	982,397	1,484,561	442,243	2,039,642	3,260,792	57,114	80,053	235,116	292,335	308,848	91,070	90,931	276,592
Aquarium													
Omaha Office													
District Offices													
Central Office	1,125			468			1				15		
GRAND TOTAL	983,559	1,484,561	442,243	2,040,274	3,260,015	65,551	80,053	235,116	292,335	309,453	91,085	91,815	275,881

2000 Income Summary	Fees, Torts, Adjustments	Misc.	Total	Park Income	Park Permits	Game Fund	Habitat Fund	Aquatic Fund	GRAND TOTAL	Other Funds	TOTAL
Alexandria SRA			11,859	11,859			254		12,114		12,114
Arbor Lodge SHP	2,584		64,375	64,375	17,616	775	70	120	82,956		82,956
Arnold SRA			1,043	1,043					1,043		1,043
Ash Hollow SHP			5,759	5,759	4,458	92		10	10,319	150	10,469
Atkinson SRA			1,318	1,318					1,318		1,318
Bluestem SRA			6,801	6,801					6,801		6,801
Bowman Lake SRA			235	235					235		235
Bowring Ranch SHP	96		2,006	2,006	1,628	159	40	20	4,054		4,054
Box Butte SRA	600		6,985	6,985					6,985		6,985
Branched Oak SRA	160,356		344,472	344,472	51,159	16,972	70	595	413,268	33	413,302
Bridgeport SRA			3,711	3,711					3,711		3,711
Brownville SRA			893	893					893		893
Buffalo Bill SHP	7	1	19,239	19,239	15,544	390	10	25	35,207	11	35,218
Buffalo Bill SRA			2,651	2,651					2,651		2,651
Calamus SRA			83,422	83,422	18,554	2,721	170	940	105,806	202,000	307,806
Chadron SP	99		230,687	230,687	35,413	29,587	2,860	885	299,431	22	299,453
Champion Lake SRA			154	154					154		154
Champion Mill SHP	42		291	291	1,431	162	10	45	1,939		1,939
Cheyenne SRA			682	682					682		682
Conestoga SRA			16,761	16,761		508			17,270		17,270
Cottonwood Lake SRA			431	431					431	15	446
Cowboy Trail									0	89,268	89,268
Crystal Lake SRA			2,528	2,528					2,528		2,528
Dead Timber SRA		10	3,976	3,976	1,896	218	70	65	6,222		6,222
Ender SRA	10		24,784	24,784	2,932	314	3,163	65	31,258		31,258
E. T. Mahoney SP	(30,720)	64,789	4,918,292	4,918,292	500,555	10,007	1,278	2,960	5,433,092	9	5,433,101
Ft. Atkinson SHP			3,547	3,547	6,994	795	40	90	11,466	250,090	261,555
Ft. Hartsuff SHP			3,837	3,837	3,463	1,029	50	40	8,419		8,419
Ft. Kearny SHP			16,341	16,341		368			16,707	284	16,991
Ft. Kearny SRA			67,721	67,721	45,950	1,055	60	375	115,161		115,161
Ft. Robinson SP	35,131	6,181	1,131,756	1,131,756	63,442	30,811	3,525	1,295	1,230,828	484	1,231,312
Fremont SRA	190	11	175,496	175,496	130,236	140		55	305,927	328	306,255
Gallagher Canyon SRA			1,643	1,643					1,643		1,643
Indian Cave SP	236	30	143,186	143,186	44,517	975	40	220	188,938	11	188,949
Johnson Lake SRA	1,524		66,928	66,928	23,436	1,367	190	610	92,530	25	92,555
Keller Park SRA			6,061	6,061			1,527		7,588		7,588
Lake Maloney SRA			21,941	21,941					21,941		21,941
Lake McConaughy SRA	594	30	270,109	270,109	80,758	17,200	1,300	5,485	374,852		374,852
LAKE Minatare SRA	57	10	40,670	40,670	29,558	3,417	60	930	74,635		74,635
Lewin & Clark SRA	212	70	321,478	321,478	30,966	4,733	150	1,840	359,167		359,167
Lincoln Maint.	0		0	0	150	66	40	15	270	282	552
Long Pine SRA			2,489	2,489					2,489		2,489
Louisville SRA	349	32	160,400	160,400	66,868	6,530	102	2,517	236,416		236,416
Medicine Creek SRA	1	10	36,330	36,330	2,838	4,665			43,833	11	43,844
Memphis SRA			4,273	4,273					4,273		4,273
Merritt SRA			29,062	29,062	525	77	10	30	29,704	20	29,724
Mormon Island SRA		28	41,572	41,572	28,574	895	60	315	71,415		71,415
Niobrara SP	52		288,476	288,476	23,857	2,907	320	670	316,230	18	316,248
North Platte Maint.									0	11	11
Olive Creek SRA			49	49		259		55,143	55,451		55,451
Oliver SRA	26		7,870	7,870					7,870		7,870
Pawnee SRA	376	20	70,201	70,201	33,968	2,527	10	75	106,779		106,779
Pelican Point SRA			481	481					481		481
Pibel Lake SRA			389	389					389		389
Pioneer SRA			35	35					35		35
Platte River SP	1,962	2,893	638,566	638,566	59,615	1,040	260	350	699,830		699,830
Ponca SP	20,419	207	206,111	206,111	32,574	2,263	100	640	241,688	24	241,712
Red Willow SRA			23,155	23,155	4,778	766	760	210	29,669		29,669
Riverview Marina SRA			4,765	4,765					4,765		4,765
Rock Creek Station SHP	388		5,209	5,209	7,891	333	60	75	13,567	9	13,576
Rock Creek Station SRA			13,479	13,479					13,479		13,479
Rockford Lake SRA		10	2,431	2,431					2,431		2,431
Sherman SRA			63,584	63,584	3,346	1,257	2,408	360	70,955		70,955
Smith Falls SP	526		45,294	45,294	13,400	160	10	60	58,924		58,924
Stagecoach SRA			1,919	1,919		389			2,307		2,307
Summit SRA			3,891	3,891	771	232	20	26,333	31,246		31,246
Sutherland SRA			2,163	2,163					2,163		2,163
Southwest Gen.					1,232	607	105	100	2,044		2,044
Swanson SRA	1		13,246	13,246	1,410	6,044	80	40	20,820		20,820
Two Rivers SRA	624	10	109,509	109,509	80,466	86,336	1,040	11,230	288,580	113	288,693
Union Pacific SRA	0		254	254					254		254
Verdon Lake SRA			147	147					147		147
Victoria Springs SRA		2	24,635	24,635	7,741	2,326	302	682	35,686	13	35,699
Wagon Train SRA			2,714	2,714		778			3,490		3,490
Walgren Lake SRA			3	3					3		3
War Axe SRA			235	235					235		235
Wildcat Hills Maint.									0	167	167
Wildcat Hills SRA	42	265	5,423	5,423	9,972	14,109	850	370	30,723	8	30,731
Willow Creek SRA	146	20	46,938	46,938	1,338	44	30	10	48,359		48,359
Windmill SRA	3	10	33,097	33,097	12,756	1,066	150	310	47,378		47,378
Trails Gen.									0	27,953	27,953
PARK TOTAL	196,131	74,638	9,912,464	9,912,464	1,504,763	259,462	21,654	116,205	11,814,548	571,378	12,385,926
Aquarium					19,795	156,864	8,871	1,970	187,499	18	187,517
Omaha Office					37,953	332,459	27,738	9,805	407,955		407,955
District Offices		13	13	13	95,073	978,067	51,167	14,230	1,136,550	1,991	1,138,541
Central Office	521,511	17	523,134	523,134	1,603,701	15,127,561	3,581,662	3,068,557	23,902,615	10,996,656	34,899,271
GRAND TOTAL	717,642	74,668	10,435,611	10,435,611	3,261,285	16,852,413	3,691,091	3,208,768	37,449,167	11,570,043	49,019,210

WILDLIFE

Wildlife focuses on four main areas: Research and Inventory, Resource Management, Habitat Management, and Education in its effort to manage our wildlife resources. Balancing the desires of the public with the limitations of the resource is a challenging endeavor.

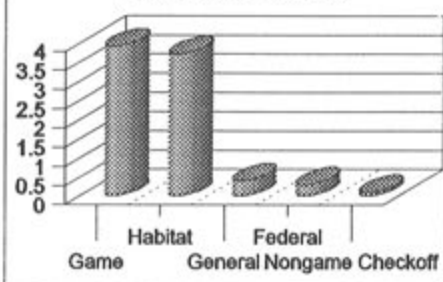
A total of \$8.4 million dollars was expended in 2000.

WHERE DID THE MONEY COME FROM?

Wildlife's expenditures came nearly equally from the Game Cash Fund (46.8%) and the Habitat Cash Fund (44.1%). The Game Fund comes primarily from licenses sales and federal aid reimbursements. Habitat Fund revenues come from Habitat Stamp sales and federal aid reimbursements.

Other funding sources included: 4.5% from General Fund, primarily for salaries and benefits for nongame, threatened & endangered and heritage staff; 1.7% from the income tax checkoff, and 2.9% from federal grants. Wildlife projects received about \$3.2 million in PR-DJ reimbursements, while the Environmental Trust added \$225,000 for CRP MAP.

2000 Expenditures By Fund
In Millions of Dollars



WHERE DID THE MONEY GO?

- **\$2.4 million** for maintaining and establishing habitat and public use facilities on WMAs.
- **\$2.1 million** for private and other public land habitat and access enhancements. Partnerships were continued or established, such as CRP-MAP, CRP upland habitat initiative, wetland restoration, county roadside seeding, and riparian restoration.
- **\$1.5 million** for research and resource management for game, nongame,

natural heritage and threatened and endangered species programs. This includes federal grant dollars for research projects.

- **\$900,000** for administrative and vehicle support services including regulation and permit coordination.
- **\$900,000** for acquisition of new wildlife management areas.
- **\$600,000** for capital development on wildlife management areas, including habitat enhancements, maintenance buildings, fencing of areas, parking lots and access roads.

RESEARCH, INVENTORY & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Managing both wildlife populations and their habitats depends on critical up-to-date research and monitoring. Surveys provide vital information about population sizes and distributions for regulating harvest of game species and conservation of nongame species.

Surveys of public attitudes towards wildlife also affect management. Habitat assessments identify areas important to the survival and health of managed species, while targeted studies help identify why certain species are declining and how their populations may be increased or safeguarded. Tracking the incidence and spread of diseases contributes to effective resource management.

In many cases, research and inventory projects are done in collaboration with other natural resource-related organizations.

Bighorn Sheep – A study initiated with Colorado State University and the U.S. Forest Service was to assess habitat use, survival, reproduction, and dispersal of bighorn in the Pine Ridge. Plans called for some bighorns to be relocated from Fort Robinson SP to Ponderosa WMA, southeast of Crawford, but capture attempts were unsuccessful due to dispersed animals, a mild winter and lack of response to bait. In the fall only about 35 sheep could be located, and plans were put on hold. Subsequently 54 bighorns were observed on the fort, and reports of additional sheep outside the fort have increased. Arrangements have now been made with Colorado to obtain sheep for transplant to Wildcat Hills, where the habitat should be as suitable.

One lottery permit was issued, and a full-curl ram was taken. Financial support for the bighorn study was also contributed by Safari Club International.

Wild Turkey – A comprehensive examination of wild turkey management activities and goals resulted in a new 5-year Nebraska Wild Turkey Management Plan. Production was a cooperative effort with the National Wild Turkey Federation. Various recommendations have already been implemented, including expanded hunting opportunities in the East Unit and translocation of birds to a few isolated woodland tracts in eastern Nebraska.

About 19,400 spring and 6,300 fall turkey permits were issued in 2000. These seasons provided about 98,000 person days of recreation, and about 10,500 turkeys were harvested.

2000 Deer Harvest

Season	Permits Sold	Harvest
Archery	15,730	4,506
Nov. Firearm	68,529	43,205
Muzzleloader	17,798	5,821
Special Seasons	9,842	6,222
Totals	111,899	59,754

Five-Year Deer Harvest Results

Year	Rifle	Archery	Muzzleloader
1996	35,670	4,472	3,585
1997	43,261	4,148	4,104
1998	40,276	4,102	4,235
1999	39,399	4,504	4,797
2000	43,205	4,506	5,761

Deer – About 112,000 permits were issued for 2000 seasons, and hunters harvested nearly 60,000 deer. Success rates included: archery 29%; muzzleloader 33%; regular firearm 61%, and special seasons 53%. Muzzleloader season was increased from 16 to 30 days, and late firearm seasons in designated problem areas were expanded to allow permittees to take antlerless deer with archery or muzzleloader during their appropriate seasons (season choice). Muzzleloader success did not change in spite of the expansion. Some 80% of the

season-choice harvest was taken with firearms in January. Concerns over herd size, especially in the southeast, landowner depredation complaints and vehicle collision reports led to another year of liberalized permitting.

Pronghorn – Based on aerial surveys, pronghorn numbers reached objective levels in 3 of 4 management units; one was not surveyed. Hunter demand consistently exceeds the permits available, which are set to manage populations and reduce depredation problems. About 1,200 hunters took 660 pronghorns with success rates of 12% for archery, 49% for muzzleloader and 65% for firearm.

A study was initiated with University of Nebraska-Omaha, U.S. Forest Service and the Nebraska Bowhunters Association to investigate habitat use, fawn survival, and movements of pronghorns in the North Sioux Unit. Adult does are radio collared, while bucks and last year's fawns receive solar-powered radio ear tags. In the spring, new-born fawns will be captured and marked with radio ear tags.

Elk – Nebraska's relatively small elk herd draws considerable interest from viewers and hunters. Nearly 900 persons applied for the 40 permits authorized in 3 units, and 19 landowner permits were issued. Hunters took 24 elk. Those with permits for the Boyd Unit are allowed, under an agreement with South Dakota, to hunt in part of Gregory County, SD, and 2 elk were taken there.

Waterfowl Management – The first teal season in Nebraska since 1970 was held in September. Deemed experimental by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), teal hunting was open only in the southern half of Nebraska. Evaluation of the rate of attempt and of take of non-target species (species other than blue-winged, green-winged and cinnamon teal) was required. Some 105 spy blinds were operated to assess the rate hunters shot at or took non-target species. At the time of writing, USFWS was still compiling data.

Work continued with the USFWS to better understand the biology and ecology of migratory birds in the Rainwater Basin region during the experimental late-winter and Conservation Action light goose seasons. Information was collected on waterfowl abundance and distribution in the Rainwater Basin. Staff assisted the U.S. Geological Survey with a pilot trapping project on northern pintails, and collected snow and white-fronted geese and northern

pintail for a University of Nebraska-Lincoln graduate student project examining physiological condition and food habits. Harvest data compiled from a hunter survey indicated that approximately 7,370 hunters (16% non-residents) harvested an estimated 80,000 light geese in the late-winter season and Conservation Action.

The effectiveness of motorized duck decoys (e.g. Robo-Duck, Mojo Duck) was evaluated. Concern over use of such decoys has arisen across the U.S. In other areas, evidence indicates that hunters using "motion" are harvesting ducks 3:1 over those who do not use them. The number and sex of each species harvested and their physical measurements were recorded to assess possible impacts of these decoys on population demographics. Data are still being compiled and analyzed.

Upland Game – CRP-MAP (Conservation Reserve Program-Management Access Program) has become one of the agency's most popular private lands programs with nearly 150,000 acres enrolled in 2000. Primary goal of CRP-MAP is to improve habitat conditions in enrolled CRP fields for grassland nesting birds, particularly brood-rearing pheasants. In the summer, the effect of CRP-MAP habitat improvements on insect abundance in eastern Nebraska (a key habitat requirement for pheasant chicks) was measured.

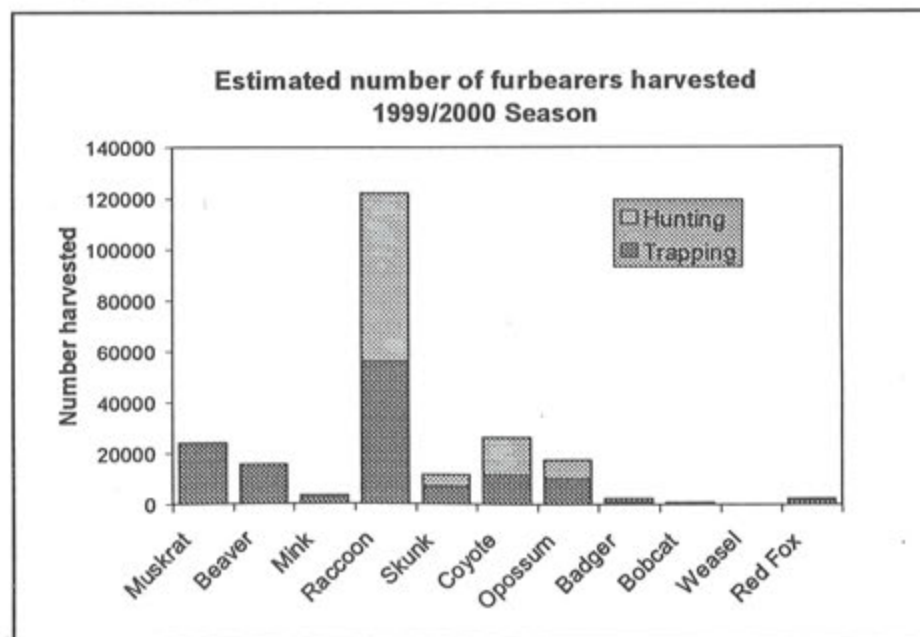
In 12 CRP-MAP fields sampled, insect abundance (by weight) averaged 2-3 times higher in the managed portions of fields than in the unmanaged portions. This suggests that light disking and legume inter-seeding done as part of CRP-MAP suc-

ceeded in improving pheasant brood habitat, at least in 2000. Similar research will be conducted over the next few years to fine-tune the management recommendations for CRP-MAP fields.

For the first time since 1930, hunters could hunt greater prairie chickens east of U.S. 81. Following five years of prairie chicken monitoring in southeast Nebraska, populations were deemed large enough to allow limited hunting in the region. The 300 free permits issued allowed the harvest of two birds. Preliminary returns from permit-holders suggest less than 60 birds were taken. Over 90% of harvest occurred in Johnson and Pawnee counties. Future hunting season recommendations will be based on final hunter survey data and trends in spring breeding ground counts.

Furbearers – The impact of continuously low fur prices during the 1999-2000 fur harvest season was balanced by the need for depredation control of species such as raccoon, beaver and coyote. Harvest numbers for most species were comparable to the average take in the 1990s. Populations of many furbearers are perceived as high, based on harvest success, observations, and depredation complaints. Increased furbearer populations during the past decade can be attributed partially to very mild winters that provided low enough temperatures and sufficient food to allow for good body condition and high reproductive success.

A record harvest of over 500 bobcats may have resulted from an increased bobcat population and growing interest in the species by fur harvesters. Continuously low muskrat harvest numbers may be associated



with low populations densities due to droughts and habitat loss. High raccoon densities were accompanied by occasional canine distemper outbreaks. Sarcopic mange remains prevalent in coyotes, especially in the eastern populations.

The good working relationship with the Nebraska Fur Harvesters Association was a priority and will continue in the future. Fur harvesters are currently the only source of data for most fur-bearing species. Conducting harvest surveys and improving survey response will remain essential for the collection of population indices.

Winter bridge surveys searched for river otter sign. Weather permitting, additional bridge surveys will be done statewide in 2001 to collect data on river otter distribution. This data can complement observation reports solicited in the past. River otters are listed as threatened in Nebraska.

HERITAGE PROGRAM, THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

The Heritage Program conducts inventories of rare, threatened and endangered species to better understand their abundance, distribution and habitat requirements. This information is critical for effective conservation actions.

Surveys for the threatened western prairie fringed orchid found 16 new sites. Two of these sites had populations of more than 100 plants, while 12 sites had less than 10 individuals each. One new site is in Holt County, and the rest are in Garfield County. Surveys sought the endangered Topeka shiner, but no new populations were found. Another survey located a number of rare plants in a search for rare plants and natural communities on Omaha and Winnebago tribal lands.

As part of NGPC's role in administering the state Non-game and Endangered Species Conservation Act, environmental reviews are conducted of projects, authorized or conducted by state agencies. Reviews insure projects don't jeopardize threatened or endangered species. Of 486 projects evaluated, less than 5% were deemed likely to affect T&E species. "May affect" cases were handled through informal consultation and proceeded with modifications that avoided species impact. Species protected included: whooping crane, least tern, piping plover, western prairie fringed orchid, Colorado butterfly plant, pallid sturgeon, sturgeon chub, finescale dace, northern redbelly dace and blacknose shiner.

Heritage staff are taking the lead in

developing a conservation assessment and strategy for black-tailed prairie dogs. A task force from a broad spectrum of interests has been formed to develop the plan, as part of a multi-state effort to develop a conservation strategy for the species. Black-tailed prairie dogs are candidates for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act. Successful implementation of various state conservation strategies should preclude the need to list the species.

Non-game Birds—Data various surveys determine the size and conservation status of populations, including the threats that might be limiting their growth. They are also critical to developing management strategies for species recovery. Surveys conducted in 2000 included:

- Mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey: Aerial routes flown along Nebraska rivers and reservoirs revealed 1,162 bald eagles, a 25% increase in wintering population compared to the 1990-1999 average.
- Bald Eagle Nesting Surveys: Of 55 nests in 33 counties surveyed for breeding activity, 20 active nests were found and 31 young were fledged. Since the species was first documented breeding in the state in 1991, 129 young have fledged from surveyed nests.
- Whooping Crane Migration Monitoring: Only two observations of two different whooping cranes were confirmed in Nebraska during the spring migration, while 10 observations of 35 different whooping cranes were confirmed during the fall migration.
- Least Tern and Piping Plover Population Survey: Summer airboat surveys of the Lower Platte River located 9 sandbar colonies with 122 terns and 23 plovers. Eight plover nests and 39 tern nests were found where 15 plovers and 22 terns were fledged.

Participation continued in the Least Tern and Piping Plover Protection Program. Field activities in the second year included monitoring 30 sand pits for nesting activity and success, erection of electric fences to keep predators and cattle out of colonies, and placing protective cages around plover nests. In addition, experiments conducted at 14 sites tested the effectiveness of attractants (gravel and driftwood) and a deterrent (mylar tape) in directing birds to nest out of harm's way.

Much of this work would not have been possible without nearly 600 hours work by a total of 75 volunteers. Additional funding is being explored, since funds run out in the fall of 2001. Future plans for the program

include adding a regional coordinator, expanding to other parts of the state, providing more intense monitoring and protection efforts on the Platte River and examining the role of the river in the migration of shorebirds and other water birds.

Nongame bird partnerships were maintained with several conservation-minded organizations, including Bluebirds Across Nebraska, Sierra Club of Omaha, Nebraska Ornithologist's Union, Woodmen of the World and Omaha Audubon Society. Activities include monitoring American kestrel nest boxes on I-80 and peregrine falcon nesting in downtown Omaha; developing, printing and distributing the *Nebraska Bluebird Directory*, and preparing the *Nebraska Breeding Bird Atlas*.

Diseases and Parasites—Monitoring of diseases and internal parasites is vital, since they can contribute to species declines. A federal aid wildlife disease project was initiated to track various diseases in wildlife and work toward finding eradication and/or containment methods. Diseases being tracked include: avian botulism, fowl cholera, epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD or blue-tongue), brainworm of deer and chronic wasting disease (CWD) of cervids.

Deer and turkeys have been the focus of several investigations. Primary disease threats to deer in Nebraska include: CWD, EHD, and ehrlichiosis.

- CWD was first found in the state among captive elk. Three captive herds tested positive. It was detected for the first time in wild deer (one animal from Kimball County). CWD is a more common disease in Colorado and Wyoming. It appears to be spreading east, but, it remains very rare in Nebraska. Of 600 wild deer and 50 wild elk checked over the past 3 years only 1 deer tested positive. Efforts in 2001 will focus on testing a larger number of cervids in the western part of the state.
- EHD is a disease that occurs frequently in white-tailed deer during the dry late summer and fall. This was a good year for EHD and a poor one for deer. Over 400 calls were received from 40 counties, where hunters, farmers, land owners, and others reported possible EHD deaths. An estimated 20,000 whitetails may have died from EHD in 2000.
- Ehrlichiosis is a bacteriological disease, normally spread by infected ticks (Lone Star). It occurs in dogs, cattle, humans, and other mammals. Some 200 blood samples from deer were examined in 1999, and low levels of infection were

found in the eastern and western parts of the state, although Lone Star ticks only occur in the east. To recheck 1999 results and pinpoint areas of infection, 275 more samples were collected in 2000 and are currently being analyzed.

About 120 turkeys were collected around the state during the spring season. The UN-L Veterinary Science Department tested for *E. coli* 0157:H7 and salmonella. Turkeys were also checked for blackhead, fowl cholera, fowl pox and tuberculosis. Only one diseased bird was found with *E. coli*. Internal organs are being examined for internal parasites, notably tapeworms.

HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Habitat management involves public and private lands to provide wildlife and natural communities with necessities for survival. Efforts are ongoing to improve habitat while optimizing recreational access. Next to weather, habitat is the most important aspect of viable wildlife populations. Nebraska encompasses about 49.4 million acres of land and water of which about 97% is privately owned. NGPC administers approximately 170,000 acres as wildlife management areas, about 0.33% of the state's area.

CRP-MAP – Because of demand for quality places to hunt and opportunities created by the USDA Conservation Reserve Program, NGPC joined with Pheasants Forever and the Nebraska Environmental Trust to establish the CRP-Management Access Program (CRP-MAP). Begun in 1997, it provides improved habitat on CRP lands offering public access for walk-in hunting. While only 19,800 acres were enrolled the first year, over 150,000 acres were signed up in 2000. The program, with its atlas of lands enrolled, is quite popular with hunters and landowners.

WILD Nebraska – Habitat Partners section continued to work with existing partners like the NRDs, NRCS, PF, USFWS

and others to improve effectiveness and delivery of numerous offerings. A new umbrella program called WILD Nebraska is now in place. It addresses many of the functions of previous programs like Wildlife Habitat Improvement, Shelterbelts, Food Plots, Roadside Seeding, CRP-MAP, WIP, Upland Habitat Initiative, Seasonal Habitat Im-


provement, etc. Program activities target specific habitat needs and allow for improved partnering opportunities with other governmental and non-governmental organizations.

2000 Program Highlights

- Technical Assistance: Thousands of contacts made with landowners for habitat assistance.
- Buffers Partnership: Fosters Continuous CRP sign up for buffers with Pheasants Forever. Nine positions shared resulted in over 650 quality acres enrolled and nearly 3,000 landowner contacts.
- CRP-MAP: Over 150,000 acres enrolled; 15,000 acres improved.
- Food / Cover Plot Program: over 400 bags of seed distributed statewide.
- Roadside Seeding Program: Over 400 acres and 167 miles of roadsides seeded statewide.
- Reviewed conservation and program plans for several national wildlife refuges and the Nebraska National Forest.

Improving Partnering Efforts – The division continued to improve partnering relationships with other resource agencies and organizations. While WILD Nebraska is achieving benefits in this regard, other activities like providing basic wildlife biological training to NRCS staff contributes to better equipped professionals in the field. Partnerships are becoming a way to do business. By sharing resources efficiency is increased and more ways are found to get jobs done.

The division shares to two positions with NRCS that are involved with program and habitat improvement practice implementation. Positions are also shared with Pheasants Forever, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wild Turkey Federation and Ducks Unlimited.

CARA Highlights – The division coordinated the State Teaming With Wildlife Coalition to support the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA). This federal legislation  **TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE** a natural investment would provide \$4 million to Nebraska annually for the conservation of fish and wildlife diversity. Congress funded part of the requested funding, a one time appropriation of \$570,000 for wildlife conservation and wildlife-dependent recreation and education in Nebraska.

Efforts to secure permanent federal funding will continue. Development of a strategic plan was initiated to provide a

framework from which to direct wildlife diversity program activities and to deliver services and products.

Farm Bill Efforts – The division continues to lead conservation-related information and assistance efforts. A full-time staff member shepherds the Farm Bill and other conservation-related legislation. An Internet conservation information distribution effort was added, the *Conservation Legislation Information Network*. It keeps interested individuals abreast of conservation issues and legislation. It is a very popular web site.

Wetland Restorations on WMAs – Projects were completed at Greenwing, Prairie Wolf, and Wilkinson WMAs, and projects began at Pintail, Sandpiper, and Kirkpatrick Basin South. Partners included: Rainwater Basin Joint Venture, Nebraska Environmental Trust, Ducks Unlimited, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Todd Valley Wetlands Foundation, and the Nebraska Game and Parks Foundation.

Private Land Wetland Projects – NGPC completed 33 private land wetland projects that totaled over 4,000 acres of wetlands and associated uplands.

EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS

Education intertwines division activities. A well-informed public is basic to support for wildlife and recreational resources. In cooperation with other divisions and/or other outside agencies, wildlife staff participated in various educational efforts:

- Waterfowl Youth Hunting
- Dove Youth Hunts
- Pheasant Youth Hunts
- Spring Migration Guide
- Presented findings and gathered information at national meetings
- Conducted school and public service presentations
- Staffed fairs, sport shows and ag-days to disseminate information
- Computer homepage development and enhancement
- Conservation Legislation Information Network
- NRCS Wildlife Training
- Stream Workshops
- Outdoor Nebraska
- Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program (4-H)
- Husker Harvest Days





